

TRAVELS
IN
UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT,

IN COMPANY WITH SEVERAL

DIVISIONS OF THE FRENCH ARMY,

During the Campaigns of

GENERAL BONAPARTE

IN THAT COUNTRY ;

AND PUBLISHED UNDER HIS IMMEDIATE PATRONAGE,

BY

VIVANT DENON.

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BY ARTHUR AIKIN.

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TRAVELS

IN

UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT.

CHAPTER XI.

*Town of Siut or Lycopolis—Character of the
Lybian Range of Mountains—Antient ex-
cavated Tombs—Doum Palm-tree—The
Red and White Coptic Convents—Large
Town of Girgeh, and Abundance of Provi-
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—Thieving Disposition of the Egyptians—
Arabian Tales, and Manner of relating them
—Baths—Thunder in Egypt—Arrival of
the Flotilla—Battle with the Mamelukes at
Samanhut—Pursuit of Murad-Bey—Ap-
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proach to Tentyra—Character of Egyptian Architecture—Magnificent Portico—Style of the Ornaments and Hieroglyphics.

SIUT is a large well-peopled town, built, to all appearance, on the site of Lyopolis, or the city of the Wolf.—Why the wolf, which is an animal of northern climates, and is not found here? Is it a worship borrowed from the Greeks, the account of which we have received from the Romans, who at that time paid but little attention to natural history, and might have confounded the jackal with the wolf? No antiquities are found in this town, but the Lybian chain, at the foot of which it stands, here exhibits such a vast number of tombs, that without doubt this town occupies the territory of some very ancient and flourishing city. We arrived here an hour after noon,
and

and we employed the remainder of the day in procuring food for the army, in exercising the sick, and in taking possession of barks and provisions, which the Mamelukes had not been able to carry away with them.

I hastened to visit the Lybian chain of mountains, so eager was I to put my finger on an Egyptian mountain. I had seen two ranges since I left Cairo, without having been able to risk climbing any one of them. I found this, as I had supposed, a ruin of nature, formed of horizontal and regular strata of calcareous stones more or less crumbling, and of different shades of whiteness, divided at intervals with large mammillated and concentric flints, which appear to be the nuclei, or, as it were, the bones of this vast chain, and seem to keep it together, and prevent its total destruction. This decomposition is daily happening by the im-

pression of the salt air, which penetrates every part of the calcareous surface, decomposes it, and makes it as it were dissolve down in streams of sand, which at first collected in heaps at the foot of the rock, and are then carried away by the winds, and encroaching gradually on the cultivated plain and the villages, change them into barrenness and desolation. The rocks are near half a league from Siut; and in the road is a very pretty house of the kiachef, who was agent for Soliman-Bey. The rocks are excavated by a vast number of tombs of different dimensions, and decorated with more or less magnificence, and this too can leave no doubt of the proximity of the antient site of some considerable town. I took a drawing of one of the largest of these monuments, to which a plan is annexed. (See Plate XV.) All the inner porches of these
grottoes

grottoes are covered with hieroglyphics; months would be required to read them, even if one knew the language, and it would take years to copy them. One thing I saw by the little day-light that enters the first porch, which is, that all the elegancies of ornament which the Greeks have employed in their architecture, all the wavy lines, the scrolls, and other Greek forms, are here executed with taste and exquisite delicacy. If one of these excavations was a single operation, as the uniform regularity of the plan of each would seem to indicate, it must be an immense labour to construct a tomb; but we may suppose that such a one, when once finished, would serve for ever for the sepulture of a whole family or even race, and that some religious worship was regularly paid to the dead; else where would have been the use of such finished ornaments of

inscriptions never read, and of a ruinous, secret, and buried splendour? At different periods or annual festivals, or when some new inhabitant was added to the tombs, funereal rites were doubtless performed, in which the pomp of ceremony might vie with the magnificence of the place; which is the more probable, as the richness of decoration in the interior part forms a most striking contrast with the outer walls, which are only the rough native rock, as may be remarked in the view that is annexed. I found one of these caves, with a single faloon, in which were an innumerable quantity of graves cut in the rock in regular order: they had been ransacked in order to procure the mummies; and I found several fragments of their contents, such as linen, hands, feet, and loose bones.

Besides these principal grottoes, there is
such

such a countless number of smaller excavations, that the whole rock is cavernous and resounds under the foot. Further on to the south, are remains of large quarries, the cavities of which are supported by pilasters: some of these quarries have been the abode of pious hermits, who in these rocks, among these vast retreats, united the austere aspect of an inhabitant of the desert to the gentle majesty of one who partakes of the bounties bestowed by a river, which dispenses to its banks plenty and fertility. This was the emblem of their life; before their retreat, cares, wealth, agitation; afterwards, calm and contemplative enjoyments; the silence of nature too imitated the reserve to which they were compelled: in these regions the unchanging and august splendor of the sky, forcibly impells to constant but chastened admiration; the dawn of day is not en-

livened by the cries of joy or the bounding of animals ; the song of no bird proclaims the return of morn, even the lark, which in our climates enlivens and animates our fallows, in these burning regions only calls to his mate, but never chants his happiness ; the grave dignity of Nature seems to inspire with the deep sense of humble acknowledgment, so that the grotto of the cenobite seems to have been placed here by the order and choice of the Deity himself ; and every animated being partakes with him in his grave and silent meditation.

Small niches, stucco facings, a few red paintings representing crosses, and some inscriptions in a language which I took to be Coptic, are the only remains which give evidence to the former habitation of the austere cenobites in these gloomy cells. In the season in which we visited them, nothing

was

was comparable to the exquisite verdure of the banks of the Nile, which embellished the shore with various hues of beautiful green as far as the eye could reach. My curiosity had led me so far from head-quarters, that I could not regain them before the march.

It is always attended with some embarrassment when a large army quits a town. We set out the next morning before day-break. All our guides had joined the same division which caused ours to wander at random, and it was some time before we were all collected. We followed the sinuities of the canal of Abu-Affi, which is the last of Upper Egypt, and so considerable in size, that it might be considered as an arm of the Nile, dividing with this river the extent of the valley, which in this day's march appeared to be no more than a league in breadth, but cultivated with more care
and

and skill than any part which we had yet seen : we found several roads marked out, which convinced us that they might, with a very little expence, be made excellent, and most completely durable, in a country like this, where neither rain nor frost are ever seen. At every half league we found wells with a small monument of hospitality, in which we could allay the thirst of man and horse : I took a sketch of one of the most considerable of these small philanthropic establishments, as agreeable as useful, which characterize the natural charity of the Arabs. (See Plate XVII. Fig. 2.) Towards the middle of the day we approached the desert, where I found three new objects ; one was the doum palm-tree, which differs from the date palm, in having from eight to fifteen stems instead of only a single one, and its ligneous fruit is attached by clusters to the
extremity

extremity of the principal branches, whence proceed numerous tufts, which form the foliage of the tree. The fruit is of a triangular form, and of the size of an egg; the first, or outer coat, is spongy, and eats like the carobe; the taste is sweetish, like honey, resembling the flavour of spice-bread; under this coat is a hard bark, filamentous like the cocoa-nut, which it resembles more than any other fruit; but it wants the fine hard ligneous shell of the cocoa; its gelatinous part is tasteless; it becomes very hard by drying, and beads are made of it, strung upon chaplets, which take a good dye and polish. (See Plate XVII. Fig. 2.)

I saw also a charming little bird, which by its shape and habitudes should be arranged in the class of fly catchers; it seized and devoured these insects with an admirable address. Thanks to the indolence of the

Turks, all birds are familiar in their country ; for though the Turks love nothing, they disturb nothing : the colour of the bird I have just mentioned is a clear and lively green ; the head and the feathers beneath the wings, golden ; the beak, long, black, and pointed ; in the tail it has one feather about half an inch longer than the rest ; the size of the bird is about the same as the small titmouse.

A little further off I saw in the desert some swallows of a clear grey colour, like that of the sand over which they were flying : these never emigrate, or at least only go into similar climates, as we never see any of them in Europe of this colour ; they are of the species of the wheat-ear.

After marching thirteen hours, we came in the evening to Gomeriffiem, unfortunately for this village ; for the cries of the

women soon convinced us that our soldiers, profiting by the darkness of the night, under pretence of seeking provisions, and notwithstanding their weariness, were enjoying by violence the gratifications which the place offered them : the inhabitants, pillaged, dishonoured, and urged to desperation, fell upon the patrols whom we sent to defend them ; and these, attacked by the furious natives, were killing them in their own defence, for want of being able to explain their object, and to make themselves understood.... O war ! thou art brilliant in history, but frightful when viewed with all thy attending horrors, naked, and undisguised.

On the 28th we skirted the edge of the desert, which was bordered by a succession of villages. In spite of the cold which we felt during the night, the heat of the day and the productions of the earth, gave us
notice

notice that we were approaching the tropic; the barley was now ripe, the wheat in ear, and the melons planted in the open field, were already in full flower. We spent the night in a wood near Narcette.

On the 29th we crossed a desert, and passed by a Coptic convent, to which the Mamelukes had set fire on the preceding evening, and which was still burning so as to prevent me from entering it; but it resembled in all its parts the white convent a short distance off, and situated also under the mountain, at the border of the desert, which I shall presently describe. The first is called the Red Convent, because it is built of brick; the other the White Convent, being constructed of stones of this colour; this latter had also been set on fire the preceding evening; but the monks in escaping had left the gates open, and some of their
servants

servants were saving what they could from the ruins.

The erection of this building is attributed to Saint Helena, which is probably true, to judge by the plan. The church was the only building left standing, but there had doubtless been a monastery attached to it, as some fragments of walls and blocks of granite adjoining seem to prove. From the dimensions of these reliques of antiquity, we must suppose, that if Saint Helena built them, the emperor Constantine must have seconded her zeal, by putting very large sums at her disposal: the monastery not being, like the church, built so as to make a strong and tenable castle, it must doubtless have been destroyed long before, by some such violence as that which we were now witnesses of; the church, on the contrary, was built so strong, that, with a portcullis at the entrance, and
a few

a few pieces of cannon on the walls, it might easily resist the attacks of the Arabs, or even the Mamelukes. But these poor monks being without arms, could only oppose to oppression their patience, sanctity, resignation, and especially their poverty, which would have saved them on any other occasion; but in the present case the Mamelukes revenged themselves on catholics, for the evils which they had experienced from other catholics, as if they could by this injustice make up for the loss which we had occasioned them. We perceived in the ruins produced by this catastrophe some charcoal, which remained from the burning of the wood-yard; and the urgent necessities of insatiable war compelled us also to take away these wrecks of the devastation of which we had been the cause.

Since the first destruction of the convent
the

the monks had made their dwellings in the lateral gallery of the church, if dwellings they might be called, which were only wretched huts, set up under those splendid porches ; it was misery in the very palace of pride.

The fathers had fled ; we only found the brothers, clothed in rags, who had scarcely recovered from the fright and agony which they had experienced the night before. To have a full idea of the life, the character, and means of subsistence of these monks, the reader should consult the excellent memoir which General Andreossi has given concerning the natron lakes, in which he has introduced an account of the convents of El-Baramous, Saint Ephraim, and Saint Ma-
caire. This exact and judicious writer has there described the poverty of these monks, their continual state of warfare with the

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Arabs, the misery of their life, and the moral causes which render it supportable to them, and which perpetuate these establishments.

Whilst we were halting I made a drawing of this convent (See Plate XVII. Fig. 1.) which will give an idea of the situation of these establishments on the edge of the desert, but commanding a view of the rich country, watered by the canal of Abu-Affi, and of the architecture of these edifices of the fourth century, and consequently two thousand years posterior to the grand monuments of high Egyptian antiquity. The gravity of style here displayed, the cornices, and the gates, are absolutely the same as the primitive architecture; the general outline is good, excepting some deficiencies in the choir, in which may be observed the decay of taste. We encamped in the evening at Bonnasse Bura.

The

The next day we returned along the Nile, and crossed the field of battle, in which, during the last war between the Turks and the Mamelukes, Affan-Basha was beaten by Murad-Bey, where the latter, with five thousand Mamelukes, overthrew, and routed eighteen thousand Turks and three thousand Mamelukes. Malem-Jacob, a Copt, who accompanied us as our steward, was a spectator of this battle and had taken a share in it, and he explained to us all the particulars. He shewed us with what superiority of talent Murad had gained his advantage and profited by it; the same Murad-Bey would now foam with anger, at being obliged to repass the same field of battle, flying before fifteen hundred infantry. As we were conversing on the vicissitudes of fortune, drawn on by the eagerness of talk, we had very imprudently, as was our usual

custom, got half a league before the army. I said in jest to Defaix, that it would be very ridiculous to have it told in history, that he had lost his head in a rencontre with half a dozen Mamelukes, and that for my part I should be inconsolable to leave mine behind a bush, where it would be forgotten. At this time we were passing out of Minchia; the adjutant Clement came to inform the General that there were Mamelukes in the village, and indeed we presently saw first two, then six, then ten, and afterwards four more, and two behind, along with their baggage: they soon observed us; if we retreated we should have been carried off, as the country was enclosed; Defaix, therefore, put a good face on the matter, and appeared to be making his arrangements; he had four fusi-
leers whom he placed alternately on each side, to encrease the appearance of our force:

we got some ditches between us and the enemy, we gained time, and at last our advanced guard came up, and they retired. We were told that Murad was waiting for us at Girgeh; we heard loud cries, and saw clouds of dust ascend. Defaix thought that at last he was going to obtain the battle which he had been seeking so painfully for the last fortnight; I was dispatched to hasten the infantry up. While galloping along, I just perceived an ancient embankment on the edge of the Nile, and flights of steps descending into two basins—were they the ruins of Ptolemais? A canon was fired as a signal to the cavalry, who were at a league distance, to rejoin us, and in half an hour we were ready either for attack or defence. We marched in order of battle up to the spot where the greatest number had collected, but they dispersed; the Mamelukes them-

selves disappeared, and we arrived at Girgeh, without being able to come up with the enemy.

Here the pitiless reader, sitting quietly at his table with his map before him, will say to the poor, hungry, harassed traveller, exposed to all the trouble of war: "I see no account of " Apheoditopolis, Crocodilopolis, " Ptolemais—what is become of all these " towns? What had you to do there, if you " could not give any account of them? had " you not a horse to carry you, an army to " protect you, and an interpreter to answer " all your questions—and have I not relied " upon you to give me some information on " all these subjects?" But, kind reader, please to recollect, that we are surrounded with Arabs and Mamelukes, and that, in all probability, I should be made prisoner, pillaged, and very likely killed, if I had thought
proper

proper to venture only a hundred paces from the column to fetch some of the bricks of Aphroditopolis. The embanked quay, which I saw in galloping to Minchia, was Ptole-mais, and no other remains of this town exist.

A little more patience, and we shall go and turn over a foil entirely new to the curious traveller, to see the places which Herodotus himself has only described from the lying reports which were given to him, and which modern travellers have only been able to draw and measure, surrounded by every cause of anxiety, without daring to lose sight of the river, plundered on every pretence by the reis, by their interpreter, by every sheik, basha, and kiachef, into whose hands they might happen to fall; abandoned by some of their servants, pillaged by others, suspected of forgery, tormented

on account of treasures which they were supposed to have found, or to be in quest of, obliged, in taking drawings, to have an eye on the attendants that surrounded them, who were ready to destroy the fruits of their labours, if not to make an attempt on their persons; these travellers, under such circumstances, cannot be blamed in transmitting very imperfect accounts of countries so curious, but at the same time so dangerous to visit.

Thanks to the obstinate perseverance of the brave Murad-Bey, who will still try the chance of war, while the rest of Egypt is in our possession, we shall contrive to pursue him, and this will lead us at last into the promised land, from which my harvest will be reaped.

Girgeh, where we arrived two hours after noon, is the capital of Upper Egypt: it is
a modern

a modern town that contains nothing remarkable : it is as large as Minyeh and Mc-laui, but less than Siut, and less beautiful than either. The name of Girgeh, or Djer-geh, is derived from a large monastery built previously to the town, and dedicated to St. George, which is pronounced Girgeh in the language of the country. The convent still exists, and we found in it European monks. The Nile razes the walls of Girgeh, and is constantly washing away a part of them ; and it would require a considerable expence to make here but an indifferent harbour for boats. This town is therefore interesting only as being situated half way between Cairo and Syene, and in a very rich territory. We found here all kinds of provisions, at a very low price ; bread was one fous the pound ; twelve eggs, two fous ; two pigeons, three fous ; a goose weighing fifteen pounds,

we

we got at twelve fous:—could this be poverty? Such too was the abundance of these articles, that after more than five thousand of us had remained here three weeks, and had encreased the consumption, and scattered out money, no rise in the demand for these necessaries had taken place.

However, our boats did not arrive; we were in want of shoes and of biscuit; the army therefore went into regular quarters here, set up ovens, and prepared a barrack to station five hundred men; and during this time of rest for us all, I experienced in my own case the great advantage of strengthening my eye-sight, which had become so indifferent as to threaten serious inconvenience. I had, indeed, no remedy with me; but I found a pot of honey, and a jar of vinegar, in the house of the sheik in which I lodged, which did me great service, for I

eat abundantly of the former, and cooled the heat of my blood with the latter, which I drank largely, mixed with water and sugar.

On the 3d of January we learnt that the peasants, seduced by the Mamelukes, were collecting in order to attack us in the rear, whilst they were promised that we should be assaulted at the same time in front. They had but a month ago plundered a caravan of two hundred merchants, who were coming from India by the Red Sea, Cossair, and Koufs; they therefore gave themselves great credit for their courage: forty of the neighbouring villages had assembled six or seven thousand men, but our cavalry charged them, slayed ten or twelve hundred of them, and put an end to their project.

We found at Girgeh a Nubian prince, a brother to the king of Darfur: he was returning from India, and was going to rejoin another

another of his brothers, who was accompanying another caravan of Nubians of Sennar, with as many women. He was bringing to Cairo elephants' teeth and gold dust, to barter against coffee, sugar, shawls, cloth, lead, iron, fenna, and tamarinds. We had a long conversation with this young prince, who was lively, gay, impetuous, and clever, all of which were shewn in his physiognomy: his colour was deeper than bronze, his eyes very fine and well set, his nose somewhat turned up and small, his mouth very wide but not flat, and his legs, like those of all the Africans, bowed and lank. He told us that his brother was an ally of the king of Burnu, and traded with him, and that he was always at war with the people of Sennar. He likewise informed us, that it was forty days journey from Darfur to Siut, during which time water was only to be met with

with once a week, either in the wells or in crossing the oasis. The profits of these caravans ought to be enormous to repay the expense and trouble of fitting them out, and to indemnify them for their very great fatigues. When their female slaves were not taken in war, they cost them one indifferent gun, and the men slaves two. He told us, that it was very cold in his country at a certain time of the year, and having no word to express to us ice, he said, that they eat a great deal of a substance which was hard when taken in the hands, and which slipped through the fingers when it was held there for some time. We enquired of him of Tombuctoo, this celebrated city, the existence of which is so problematical in Europe. He was not surprised at our questions. From his account Tombuctoo was at the south-west of his country, and its inhabitants

bitants came to trade with him : they were six months on their journey from Tombuctoo to Darfur, and purchased the various articles which he brought from Cairo, for which they exchanged gold dust. He added, that this country was called in their language the paradise; that the town of Tombuctoo was situated on the banks of a river, which flowed towards the west, and that the inhabitants were small of stature, and mild in disposition. We regretted much that we could not enjoy more time with this interesting traveller, but we could not indifferently urge him with questions, though he seemed to be perfectly well inclined to tell us what he knew, having nothing of the Muselman gravity and taciturnity, and expressing himself with ease and energy. He told us, besides, that in his country the succession of the royal family was elective; that

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the military and civil chiefs, after the death of a king, chose, out of his sons, him whom they thought most worthy to succeed to the throne; and that hitherto there had been no example of a civil war being produced by this custom.

All that I have been relating is, word for word, an authentic copy of the conversation which we had with this foreign prince. He added, that we had an infinite number of things to furnish Africa with, and that we should find them very willing to trade with us, without ~~injuring~~ the commerce which they kept up with each other; that we should attach them to our interests by all their wants, and by the exportation of the superfluity of our productions; that the trade with India, in like measure, might be carried on through Mecca, taking this town or that of Coffeir as a common *entrepôt*, in the same way as Aleppo

is for the Mussulman states, notwithstanding the length of march required on each side to arrive at the common point of contact.

We were now waiting every day for the barks which were to follow our march, on board of which were our provisions, ammunition, and the clothing of our troops. The wind, contrary to what generally prevails at this season, had been uniformly favourable for the arrival of the barks, and yet they were not come. We had dispatched several expresses to gain some tidings of them; but the first that we sent had perished in passing through the revolted villages, and the others did not appear, so that we were compelled to lose our most favourable season in inaction. The country even might begin to think that we feared to meet the Mamelukes, and this opinion would disaffect the peasants to-
wards us: indeed they already refused to
pay

pay the *miri*, alledging as a reason, that there must be a battle, and they would pay it to the conqueror.

On the 9th of January, the tenth day of our arrival, General Defaix determined to send his cavalry to Siut, to know absolutely what was become of his maritime convoy. We had previously sent from Girgeh a battalion to Bardis, in quest of provision; the officer who commanded it informed us, on the evening of the ninth, that the Mamelukes had given out that on the eleventh they would march from Hau, to reach us on the next day; and that they were absolutely determined to give us battle. This news was confirmed from every quarter; although Defaix was not convinced that the great object of our wishes was at hand, he had additional reason to complain of our flotilla, which by depriving us of the assistance of

our cavalry, would prevent us from making advantage of our victory, in case we gained one; for infantry alone can never do more with the Mamelukes than accept of battle, not being able to compel them to it, or oblige them to continue it longer than they think proper.

Another pest with which we were much harassed, was a perpetual theft, which was contrived by the offenders in such a manner, that no rigour of military execution could protect our arms or our horses. Every night the inhabitants stole into our camp like rats, and lurking about, they generally found an opportunity to seize some article of plunder, and carry it away with them. Some of the robbers had been caught in the very fact, and sacrificed to the rage of the soldiers on guard; it was hoped that this rigour would prove a salutary example; the guard was doubled,

doubled, and yet on the same day two of the artillery forges were taken off; but the robbers were apprehended and shot immediately. In the night which followed this execution, the horses of the aid-de-camp of the general of cavalry were stolen: the general laid a wager that they would not touch any of his property, but the next day his horse also disappeared, and the plunderers had pulled down part of a wall in order to surprize the general himself, which failed only on account of day-light coming before they were prepared.

On the 10th we learnt that Murad-Bey had invited the Arab sheiks of the villages which had submitted to us to rendezvous at Girgeh, and march against us. On the 12th, the day in which we were to have been attacked, several of these sheiks sent us a letter, informing us that they remained faithful

to their treaty, and denounced to us those who had promised to march to join Murad ; but the encounter which they had had with our cavalry disconcerted their plans.

The sky was cloudy on the 11th, and we suffered from it as if it were a sharp winter's day, though it would have been reckoned in Europe fine April weather, so much is the absence of a blessing considered as a positive evil ! On this day, however, which we complained of so much, I saw a vine-stalk as green as in the month of July ; the leaves in this country only harden, become red, and dry, whilst the end of the branch perpetually renews its verdure ; the creeping peas do the same, their stalk becomes woody : and I have seen some that were forty feet high, and had climbed to the tops of trees.

We learned also that there had arrived from Mecca, by the way of Cossair, an innumerable

numerable troop of foot soldiers to join Murad-Bey, and that they were on their march to attack us.

On the 13th we were informed that our cavalry had fallen in with a number of the enemy at Menshieth, had put to the sword a thousand of these deluded people, and had pursued their march. This was certainly not a lesson of fraternization; but our position, perhaps, rendered an act of severity necessary: this province, which had always the reputation of being very turbulent, and very formidable, required to be taught that they could not brave us with impunity; it was, besides, our policy to conceal from them, that our means were small, and our resources dispersed; and to give them the impression of our being as vindictive when provoked, as mild when treated with respect; and that we should punish severely those who were

disposed to doubt that all we did was finally for their own good.

We prepared to march as soon as our cavalry returned, whether our flotilla was to come at last, or whether we should be obliged to give it up; for by remaining here we did but encrease the evils of our situation, and those which we were obliged to make the inhabitants suffer in keeping up this constant state of war, uncertainty, and disorganization.

Still no tidings of our cavalry on the 14th. We amused ourselves with hearing Arabian tales, in order to kill time, and relieve our impatience. The Arabs relate stories so slowly, that our interpreters could follow them almost without interrupting the narrative. They retain the same passion for these tales as we have long been familiar with in the thousand and one tales of the
fultana

sultana Scherafade; and in this respect, Defaix and myself almost equalled the sultan; his prodigious memory lost scarcely a single phrase of what he had heard; and I forbore to write them down, as he promised to repeat them to me from memory, word for word. I observed, however, that if these relations were not rich in natural images and just sentiment (a merit which seems to belong exclusively to the writers of the north), they abound in extraordinary events and interesting situations, occasioned by high and strong passions: these writers make abundant use of all the machinery of castles, iron grates, poisons, daggers, rapes, night adventures, mistakes, treachery; in short, all that can embroil a narration, and appear to render the *denouement* impossible, and yet the story always finishes very naturally in the clearest and most satisfactory manner.

This is the merit of the inventor, and to this the narrator adds that of precision and declamation, which are in high esteem with the audience ; and thus it happens that the same story is told by several relators successively with equal interest and success ; one giving in a better style of declamation the pathetic and amorous part ; another throwing in more interest in the battle scenes and those of horror ; and a third humouring the laughable events ; in short, it is their theatrical entertainment ; and as we go to a play the first time for the piece, and afterwards for particular actors ; so with the Arabs these repeated representations do not fatigue the auditors. These tales are followed with discussions ; the parts which have excited applause are criticised, and thus the talents of the performers are brought to greater perfection ; and all those who have acquired a high

high pitch of excellence in this art are in great estimation, as they contribute to the happiness of a whole family or even a horde. The Arabs have also their poets, even their improvisatores, who exhibit at great feasts, and they appear to be enchanted with them. I have heard them, but when their songs are not narrative, they doubtless lose much by being translated; they seemed to me to be only concetti, or a very insipid play upon words: these poets too have very singular manners, and particular tricks or gestures, which distinguish them indeed from others, but give an appearance of insanity that inspired me with pity and repugnance; which was not the case with the narrators of the tales, who appear to have much more talent and nature.

Our delays ought to have distressed me less than others, since it gave me time to
allay

the inflammation of my eyes; but I partook of the impatience of Desaix, who depended on the resources which our convoy had on board, the absence of which paralysed all his operations in every quarter, and left him in a distressing state of inaction. Happily we had few sick and wounded, for the physicians, who were without remedies, could only look on, to tell them what should have been done for them, and could administer nothing: however, we established a hospital, ovens, and a magazine, and we had a barrack sufficiently well fortified to be defended against any insurrection or attack of the peasants, and to hold in security three hundred men, in this little inlet of a post on the Nile.

Not knowing well what to do for my inflamed eyes, I went to the baths of the town, and found much ease from this remedy.

medy. I shall here refer my reader to the elegant description given of these Egyptian baths by Savary, whose rich imagination has set before his readers a very lively picture of the pleasure which they afford, and the voluptuous gratification which they are capable of procuring. I took a drawing of the bath which I used. (See plate XVI.)

The morning of the 15th was cold enough to make one wish for a fire, but it was rather the chillness of a raw morning in May, for on putting my head out of my window, I saw the birds alive and active, and busy in making their nests: in the evening of this day it thundered, a very rare occurrence in this country, which happens hardly oftener than once in a generation, by a concurrence of circumstances perhaps not difficult of explanation. The north wind, which is the most constant of all those that
prevail

prevail in this part of the world, brings from the sea the clouds of a colder region, rolls them along through the valley of Egypt, where a burning sun rarefies them and reduces them to vapour; when this vapour is driven into Abyffinia, the south wind, which crosses the lofty and cold mountains of this country, sometimes brings back a few scattered clouds, which, as they experience but little change of temperature when returning over the humid valley of the Nile in flood-time, remain condensed, and at times produce, without thunder or tempest, small hasty showers. But, as the east and west winds, which are in general the parents of storms, both cross burning deserts, which either absorb the clouds or raise the vapour to such a height as to be able to pass over the narrow valley of Upper Egypt, without being able to undergo detonation by the
operation

operation of the waters of the river, the phenomenon of thunder becomes so rare an occurrence to the inhabitants of this country, that even the thinking people who reside here do not attempt to assign to it a physical cause. General Defaix having questioned a person in the law in this place on the cause of thunder, he replied, with the perfect confidence of conviction : “ We know very well that it is an angel, but so small in stature that he cannot be perceived in the air ; he has however the power of conducting the clouds of the Mediterranean into Abyssinia, and when the wickedness of men is at its height, he makes his voice heard, which is a voice of menace and reproach ; and as a proof that he has also the disposal of punishment, he opens a little way the gate of heaven, whence darts out the lightning ; but as the clemency

“ of God is infinite, never is his wrath carried
“ further in Upper Egypt.”

It was a matter of surprize to us to hear a sensible-looking man, with a venerable white beard, relate such a puerile tale. Desaix wished to explain to him in another manner this phenomenon, but the old man thought it so inferior to his own, that he even did not take the trouble to listen to it. It had by this time rained all night, which rendered the streets muddy, slippery, and hardly passable. Here finishes the history of our winter, which I shall not again have occasion to mention.

We had now set up ovens after the manner of the country, and baked biscuit for ourselves. The Egyptians manage their ovens with great skill and address; for, individually, they are dexterous and industrious, and as they have scarcely more tools to
work

work with than any savage, it is surprising how much they do with their fingers, the instruments to which they are commonly reduced; and with their feet, with which they assist their hands wonderfully. As workmen they have one great recommendation, which is, that they are patient and unassuming, and ready to repeat their work till it is done to your mind. I know not whether they can be made brave; but we ought not to see, without some apprehension, the qualities of good soldiers which they already exhibit; they are eminently sober, as active on their legs as couriers, centaurs on horseback, and tritons in swimming; and yet four thousand French exercise absolute empire over several millions of such men, possessing such formidable qualities of body; so strongly impressed on the mind of some persons is the habit of obedience, as that of

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command

command is on others, and this state continues till one party flumber over their abuse of power, whilst the others at last awake at the noise of their chains.

On the 18th of January our cavalry returned; they brought us the welcome news of the arrival of our barks, and gave us the particulars of a battle which they had fought with several Mamelukes and their allies, who had spread the intelligence that they had forced our position and defeated us, and that our cavalry were the wrecks of the French army, who were endeavouring to make good their return to Cairo. Two thousand Arabs on horseback, and five or six thousand peasants on foot, had intended to cut off our cavalry, and for this purpose had advanced beyond Tata to meet them: when our troops discovered them they began to form; but the enemy supposing that our cavalry would decline

decline the combat, had charged with their accustomed disorder, that is to say, with some of the boldest in front, and the rest in the middle, all striking and never parrying: but at the second discharge, the enemy, astonished to receive from cavalry a fire as well kept up as that of a battalion, began to give way, and having lost forty of their men, with about a hundred wounded, they had dispersed in different directions, deserting their poor infantry, who as usual had been sabred, and would have been entirely destroyed, if night had not assisted their escape.

On the 20th our long expected boats arrived, and the supplies which they brought with them, and above all the music of one of our demi-brigades playing favourite French airs, gave us all such a surprising sensation of delight at Girgeh, that we forgot all the fretting impatience under which

we had of late so much suffered. Alas, it was the song of the menaced swan ! but let us not anticipate events ; in war time, above all, the present moment must be enjoyed, since no one can command the succeeding.

On the 21st the advance-money and the brandy with which we were now supplied, gave a new pleasure to the life of the soldier, who, already tired of eating his six eggs for a sous, set out with joy to meet with fresh hardships.

We had been for twenty-one days tiring ourselves with the inaction to which we had been compelled : I knew that I was near Abidus, where Osymandyas had built a temple, and where Memnon had resided. I was constantly urging Defaix to send thither a reconnoitring party as far as El-Araba, where I daily heard there were several ruins ; and as often Defaix said to me, “ I will conduct
“ you

“ you thither myself; Murad-Bey is two
“ days journey from us, he will come up to
“ us the day after to-morrow, and we shall
“ then give him battle, and when we shall
“ have beat him, we can then bestow as
“ much time as you will on antiquities, and
“ I will help you myself to measure them.”
My good friend was certainly in the right,
and even if it were not so, I must have con-
tented myself.

At last, on the 22nd, we quitted Girgeh
at the approach of night, and we passed di-
rectly opposite to the antiquities. Defaix
dared not look me in the face: “ If I am
“ killed to-morrow,” said I to him, “ my
“ ghost will be always haunting you, repeat-
“ ing in your ears El-Araba.” In truth, he
recollected my menace, for five months after
he sent from Siut an order for a detachment
to be given me to escort me to El-Araba.

We arrived before a village: it was only the next day we learnt that it was called Et-Besera, for in the evening there was not a single inhabitant left to speak to. For my own part, I was not very sorry to find these villages empty, as it prevented me from hearing the cries of the inhabitants, from whom we were obliged to supply our wants by force; whereas when they were apprised of our coming every thing was removed, even to the doors and window-cases; and a village thus stript only two hours before, had the appearance of a ruin a century old.

The next day, as I was setting out the foremost on the march, having the least to do, I was the first to perceive the Mamelukes. They advanced towards us, shewing a front of an immense extent. We immediately formed in three squares, two of infantry for our wings, and our cavalry in the centre, flanked

flanked with eight pieces of artillery on the angles. In this order we marched, taking the route to Samanhut, a village of considerable elevation, below which we hoped to take a good position. The Mamelukes now dividing their force, turned us in three points, and began to fire their pieces, and to set up their war cries, before we even thought of using our artillery. A body of volunteers from Mecca were posted in a ravine between the village and our army, and fired from under cover on the square of our twenty-first. Defaix sent a detachment of infantry to dislodge them from their trenches, and another of cavalry to pursue them when they were driven out of their post. The cavalry, which was too eager, made the attack too soon and to disadvantage; one of our men was killed, another wounded, and the aid-de-camp Rapp, received a sabre wound,

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wound,

wound, which would have brought him to the ground, had not a volunteer parried off four more blows that were aimed at him: the Mecca troop, however, were repelled.

Chasseurs were now sent to the village to dislodge those of the enemy who had taken post there; the Mamelukes drew up to attack our left, whilst another party threatened our right; they had at one time a favourable moment for charging us, but they hesitated, and lost an opportunity which never again occurred. However, they continued to prance round us, making a most brilliant display of their glittering arms, and of their skill in horsemanship, in which they exhibited all the oriental splendour; but the rigid severity of our northern discipline presented a spectacle equally formidable and commanding; the contrast however was striking; it was iron in battle array against gold,
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the whole plain sparkled with polished arms and accoutrements, and the picture was beautiful. Our artillery fired on the whole front of the enemy at once, who made a false attack on our right, in which several of their men were killed. One of their leaders struck with a bullet, fell down too near us to be assisted by his own people, and whilst his foot hung in the stirrup, the horse without abandoning his rider, would not let any one approach him; but the cupidity of our marksmen was raised by the gold which glittered on the dress of this unfortunate chief, who was thus dragged from place to place by his horse, and made to suffer the horrors of death in many forms.

Another party of chasseurs had been sent to Samanhut, to dislodge the enemy from that village also. They soon effected their object, and Murad himself was one of those

that fled from this place, which was the post of his reserve: he took the route to Farshiut. This movement divided the whole of the enemy's army. Defaix took advantage of it to occupy the ground which they were quitting, and ordered the cavalry to charge those that still remained on our right. In an instant we saw them in the desert, gaining the first ascent of the mountain with incredible speed: we thought that, when in this favourable ground they would halt, to make head against our cavalry, but terror and disorder were among their ranks, and they only thought of collecting together to protect their flight; some of their stragglers were killed and some camels taken, a small body fled separately on our left, the firing ceased at noon, and at one o'clock none of our enemies were in sight. We directed our march to Farshiut, which Murad-Bey had already abandoned.

This unfortunate town had been pillaged some hours before by the Mamelukes. The sheik was a descendant of the sheiks Amman, who were powerful sovereigns, much respected in Saïd, and in the beginning of this century had reigned with equity, and had been able to protect their subjects from the vexations of the Mamelukes. The present sheik, who had been conquered by Murad, and was reduced to a state of weakness and poverty, had seen with pleasure his avengers in us, and had prepared biscuit for our arrival; but Murad, defeated and obliged to fly, had sent for this old prince before he left Farshiut, had loaded him with reproaches, and in his rage had cut his head off with his own hand. When our troops arrive they compleat the pillage of the magazines, the *generale* is beat to prevent this disorder, but the whole army was equally in fault, and must have been punished;

punished ; a forced march is immediately ordered, and to escape the reproaches and clamour of the inhabitants, we set out on our march at midnight.

The darkness was frightful, and the cold severe enough to oblige us to light a fire every time that the artillery halted. As Defaix, his aides-de-camp, and myself, were standing under the shelter of a wall by one of our fires, we received a volley from some fusiliers at the top of the wall : they were some of the volunteers from Mecca who still hovered about us, for it was our destiny to meet with them every where ; they were twenty in number, and we killed eight of them ; the others escaped, owing to the darkness of the night. These volunteers, who called themselves noble, wore the green turban, as descendants of the race of Ali : and the vagabond chevaliers, who lived by plundering

dering the caravans on the shore of Gidda, were now urged by their noble zeal, and tempted by the dead time of year for their usual occupation, to come and attack a European people, whom they thought were covered with gold, that would repay by an ample booty all their toils and hazards.

Armed with three javelins, a pike, a dagger, a brace of pistols, and a carabine, they attack with boldness, resist with obstinacy; and though mortally wounded, seem astonishingly tenacious of life; for in this last rencounter I saw one of them still strike at and wound two of our men, whilst they were holding him nailed against a wall with their bayonets.

We arrived at Haw an hour before sunrise. The Mamelukes had just left it; one party of the beys had entered the desert with their camels, to arrive at Esneh by this route

route in a day and a half, the rest had followed the course of the Nile, which requires a journey of six days.

Haw, or the ancient Diospolis Parva is in a fine military situation; it possesses no remains of antiquity.

Here we halted during the day, and set out an hour before night, which as we knew by the experience of yesterday would be dark, and attended with danger for the march of our artillery. But the conquest of Egypt, which had begun so auspiciously by the battle of the pyramids, would have finished with equal brilliance by the battle of Thebes, if we could have brought our *Fabius*, Murad-Bey, to compleat action. How many forced marches has the remembrance of this battle cost us! but Defaix was not the spoiled child of fortune, and his star was cloudy: experience could not convince him of our inability

bility to pursue the enemy with an equal speed; he would hear nothing which could throw a damp on his hopes. The artillery was too cumbersome, the infantry too slow, the strong cavalry too heavy, nothing but the light cavalry could keep pace with his eager wishes, and I am sure that he lamented not being a simple captain, that he might follow his impetuous ardour, and charge Murad at the head of his company. At last we set out, and after being enlightened by the illusive splendour of an aurora borealis, and waiting for the moon's rising till half after ten, we arrived at eleven at a large village, the name of which I could never learn, and where, unfortunately for their reputation, and to the great misfortune of the inhabitants, our soldiers misbehaved. We left this place at the first dawn of day, on the 15th of January. The tongue of cultivated land now became more narrow on the left bank

bank on which we were marching, but encreased on the right bank in nearly the same proportion.

At last we entered the desert, and we there saw a wild beast, which by its size and remarkable form we took to be a hyena. We pushed on to overtake it, but it ran from us as fast as we could gallop, and we were obliged to give up the pursuit.

We were now approaching Tentyra in our march, and here I ventured to speak to Desaix of halting, but he answered me with some ill-humour: this displeasure, however, lasted but a moment, for soon after, resuming his natural sensibility, he came to me, and partaking of my love for the fine arts, he shewed himself even a warmer friend to them than myself. Endowed with a truly rare delicacy of mind, he had united a love of all the amiable passions with an ardent
thirst

thirst for glory; and to a great extent of knowledge, which he already possessed, he added a constant desire of encreasing the stores of his mind with all the means of information which fell in his way, so that his active curiosity rendered his society always agreeable, and his conversation interesting.

We arrived at Tentyra. The first object which I saw was a small temple on the left hand of the road, in so bad a style and proportions of architecture, that at a distance I took it to be the ruins of a mosque. In turning back to the right, I found buried in a gloomy heap of ruins a gate, built of enormous masses covered with hieroglyphics; and through this gate I had a view of the temple. I wish I could here transfuse into the soul of my readers the sensation which I experienced. I was too much lost in astonishment to be capable of cool judgment;

all that I had seen hitherto served here but to fix my admiration. This monument seemed to me to have the primitive character of a temple in the highest perfection. Covered with ruins as it was, the sensation of silent respect which it excited in my mind appeared to me a proof of its impressive aspect, and without being partial in favour of the antique, I may add, that the whole army experienced similar feelings.

Before entering into particulars, let us refer to the different views for a general idea of the extent and plan of this edifice, its present state, and the picturesque effect which it exhibits. (See Plates XVIII. XIX. and XX.) These views will give an idea of the situation of the antient city of Tentyra, which was built on the borders of the desert, on the lowest level of the Lybian chain, the foot of which is washed by the waters of the inundation

inundation of the Nile at the distance of a league from its bed.

Nothing is more simple and better put together than the few lines which compose this architecture. The Egyptians, borrowing nothing from the style of other nations, have here added no foreign ornament, no superfluity of materials: order and simplicity are the principles which they have followed, and they have carried them to sublimity. At this point they have stopped, and have attached so much importance to preserving the unity of design, that though they have loaded the walls of these edifices with bas-reliefs, inscriptions, and historical and scientific representations, none of these rich additions intersects a single line of the general plan, all of which are religiously preserved unbroken: the sumptuous, and rich decorations which appear to the eye when close

to the building, all vanish at a short distance; and leave full to view the grand elements of architectural composition, which are dictated by sound reason. It never rains in this climate; all that is wanted therefore is a covering of plat-bands to give shade, but beyond this, neither roof nor pediment are added; the plain-slope is the principle of solidity; they have therefore adopted this form for every main supporter, doubtless with the idea, that stability is the first impression that architecture should give, and is an essential constituent of this art. With these people, the idea of the immortality of the Deity is presented by the eternity of his temple; these ornaments, which are always rational, always consistent, always significant, demonstrate a steadiness of principle, a taste founded upon truth, and a deep train of reasoning; and if we even had not a full conviction

viction of the eminent height to which they had attained in the abstract sciences, their architecture alone, in the state in which we now find it, would give the observer of the present day a high opinion of the antiquity of this nation, of its cultivation, and the impressive gravity of its character.

I have already said, that I despair of being able to express all that I felt on standing under the portico of Tentyra. I felt that I was in the sanctuary of the arts and sciences. How many periods presented themselves to my imagination at the sight of such an edifice ! how many ages of creative ingenuity were requisite to bring a nation to such a degree of perfection and sublimity in the arts ! and how many more of oblivion to cause these mighty productions to be forgotten, and to bring back the human race to the state of nature in which I now found

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them

them on this very spot ! Never was there a place which concentrated in a narrower compass the well-marked memorial of a progressive lapse of ages. What unceasing power, what riches, what abundance, what superfluity of means must a government possess which could erect such an edifice, and find within itself artists capable of conceiving and executing the design, of decorating and enriching it with every thing that speaks to the eye and the understanding ! Never did the labour of man shew me the human race in such a splendid point of view : in the ruins of Tentyra the Egyptians appeared to me giants.

I wished to take every thing on paper, but I could hardly venture to begin the work ; I felt that, not being able to raise my powers to the height which was before my admiring eyes, I should only shew the imperfection
of

of the imitative art ; for in no place had I ever been furrounded with so many objects to elevate my imagination. These monuments, which imprinted on the mind the respect due to the sanctuary of the Divinity, were the open volumes, in which science was unfolded, morality dictated, and the useful arts promulgated ; every thing spoke, every object was animated with the same mind. The opening of the doors, the angles, the most private recess, still presented a lesson, a precept of admirable harmony, and the lightest ornament on the gravest feature of the architecture revealed, under living images, the abstract truths of astronomy. Painting added a further charm to sculpture and architecture, and produced at the same time an agreeable richness, which did not injure either the general simplicity or the gravity of the whole. To all appearance, painting,

in Egypt, was then only an auxiliary ornament, and not a particular art: the sculpture was emblematical, and, if I may so call it, architectural. Architecture, therefore, was the great art, or that which was dictated by utility, and we may from this circumstance alone infer the priority, or at least the superior excellence of the Egyptian over the Indian art, since the former, borrowing nothing from the latter, has become the basis of all that is the subject of admiration in modern art, and of what we have considered as exclusively belonging to architecture, the three Greek orders, the doric, ionic, and corinthian. We should, therefore, be cautious of entertaining the false idea, which is so prevalent, that the Egyptian architecture is the infancy of this art, since it is in fact the compleat type.

I was particularly struck with the beauty
of

of the gate which closed the sanctuary of the temple ; all the ornaments which architecture has since added to this species of decoration, have only diminished the general style. (See Plate XIX.)

I could not expect to find any thing in Egypt more compleat, more perfect, than Tentyra ; I was confused by the multiplicity of objects, astonished by their novelty, and tormented by the fear of never again visiting them. On casting my eyes on the ceilings I had perceived zodiacs, planetary systems, and celestial planispheres, represented in a tasteful arrangement ; the walls I had observed to be covered with groups of pictures exhibiting the religious rites of this people, their labours in agriculture and the arts, and their moral precepts ; I saw that the Supreme Being, the first cause, was every where depicted by the emblems of his

attributes; every thing was equally important for my pencil, and I had but a few hours to examine, to reflect on, and to copy what it had been the labour of ages to conceive, to put together, and to decorate. Our national impatience was dismayed with the constancy of application exhibited by the people who had executed these monuments; throughout was shewn equal care, and equal assiduity, which would make one believe that these edifices were not the works of their kings, but that they were constructed at the expence of the nation, under the direction of colleges of priests, and by artists whose labours were circumscribed by invariable rules. A series of years might, indeed, have brought the arts to a higher degree of perfection in some particulars; but each temple is so equally finished in all its parts, that they appear all to have
been

been executed by the same hand ; no one portion is better or worse than any other ; there appears neither negligence nor the bold strokes of a more exalted genius, uniformity and harmony prevail throughout. The art of sculpture, here made subservient and attached to that of architecture, appears to have been circumscribed in principle, in method, and in style of execution ; a single figure expresses nothing, when taken out of its exact station in the group in which it is a part ; the sculptor had his design chalked out for him, and could not introduce any deviation which might alter the true meaning that it was intended to convey : it was with these figures as with the cards that we use for our games, the imperfection of design is overlooked, that no obstacle may arise in instantly distinguishing the value of each. The perfection given by the Egyptians

tians to the representations of their animals, proves that they were not without an idea of that bold style which expresses much character in a few lines, and their execution tended to the grave, and to ideal perfection, as we have already remarked in the instance of the sphinx.

As to the character of the human figure, as they borrowed nothing from other nations, they could only copy from their own, which is rather delicate than fine. The female forms, however, resemble the figure of beautiful women of the present day, round and voluptuous, a small nose, the eyes long, half shut, and turned up at the outer angle, like those of all persons whose sight is habitually fatigued by the burning heat of the sun, or the dazzling white of snow; the cheeks round and rather thick, the lips pouting, the mouth large, but cheerful and smiling ;

smiling; in short, the African character, of which the negro is the exaggerated picture, though perhaps the original type.

The hieroglyphics, which are executed in three different manners, are also of three species, and may take their date from as many distinct periods. From the examination of the different edifices which have fallen under my eye, I imagine that the most ancient of these characters are only simple outlines cut in without relief, and very deep; the next in age, and which produce the least effect, are simply in a very shallow relief; and the third, which seem to belong to a more improved age, and are executed at Tentyra more perfectly than in any other part of Egypt, are in relief below the level of the outline. By the side of the figures which compose these tabular pieces of sculpture, there are small hieroglyphics,

which appear to be only the explanation of the subjects at large, and in which the forms are much simplified, so as to give a more rapid mode of inscription, or a kind of *shorthand*, if we may apply the term to sculpture.

A fourth kind of hieroglyphics appears to be devoted simply to ornament: we have improperly termed it, I know not why, the *arabesque*. It was adopted by the Greeks, and in the age of Augustus was introduced among the Romans; and in the fifteenth century, during the restoration of the arts, it was transmitted by them to us as a fantastic decoration, the peculiar taste of which formed all its merit. Among the Egyptians, who employed these ornaments with equal taste, every object had a meaning or a moral, and at the same time formed the decoration of the friezes, the cornices, and the sur-basements of their architecture; as an example of which, see Fig. 1. Plate XL.

I have discovered at Tentyra the representations of the peristyles of temples in caryatides, which are executed in painting at the baths of Titus, and have been copied by Raphael, and which we constantly ape in our rooms, without suspecting that the Egyptians have given us the first models of them.

With my pencil in my hand, I passed from object to object, distracted from one by the inviting appearance of the next ; constantly attracted to new subjects, and again torn from them, I wanted eyes, hands, and intelligence vast enough to see, copy, and reduce to some order, the multitude of striking images which presented themselves before me. I was ashamed at representing such sublime objects by such imperfect designs, but I wished to preserve some memorial of the sensations which I here experienced, and

I feared

I feared that Tentyra would escape from me for ever; so that my regret equalled my present enjoyment. I had just discovered, in a small apartment, a celestial planisphere, when the last rays of day-light made me perceive that I was alone here, along with my kind and obliging friend General Beliard, who, after having satisfied his own curiosity, would not leave me unprotected in so deserted a spot.

We galloped on, and regained our division, which was already at Dindera, three quarters of a league off Tentyra, where we slept. Every soldier, every officer, without giving or receiving orders, had turned aside from the route, and hastened to Tentyra; and the army had of their own accord remained there the rest of the day—a day of such pleasure, as to reward me for every danger incurred to obtain such a gratification.

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In the evening, Latournerie, an officer of brilliant courage, and of a refined and delicate taste, said to me: “ Since I have been in
“ Egypt deceived in all my expectations, I
“ have been constantly heavy and melan-
“ choly, but Tentyra has cured me ; what I
“ have seen this day has repaid me for all
“ my fatigues ; whatever happens to me in
“ the event of this expedition, I shall all
“ my life congratulate myself at having em-
“ barked in it, to have obtained the remem-
“ brance of this day, which I shall preserve
“ all the rest of my existence.”

CHAPTER XII.

Crocodiles in the River—Astonishing Effect of the first Approach to Thebes—General Site of the Monuments and the Necropolis—Colossal Statues of Memnon and Osymandyas—Names of eminent Visitors inscribed—Palace at Medinet-Abu—Singular Tamarisk Tree—Sudden Contraction of the Nile—Beautiful Portico at Esneh or Latopolis—Hieraconpolis—Etfu—First View of Apollinopolis Magna—Harassing March through the Desert—Village of Binban, and affecting Incident.

WE quitted Dindera on the 26th of January, continuing our route southwards, following the direction of the Nile, in a course opposite to its current. The country

country now exhibited a new scenery to our eyes: we saw palm-trees much larger than any which we had hitherto met with, gigantic tamarisks, villages half a league long, and yet the land, which had received the benefit of the inundation, remained uncultivated. Could it be that the inhabitants chose to grow no more than was sufficient for their own consumption, and thus deprive their tyrants of the profit of their superfluity? In the afternoon, as Defaix and myself were talking about crocodiles, being near that part of the Nile where they were met with, and opposite several low sand islands, their favourite resort, we saw something long and brown lying among a number of ducks; it was a crocodile asleep; he appeared about fifteen or eighteen feet long. We fired on him, and he gently entered the water, but some minutes after came out again; a se-

cond shot made him again plunge in, but he again returned to the island; his belly appeared much larger than that of animals of the same species, which I have seen stuffed.

We learned that one party of the Mamelukes had passed along the right bank of the river, and that the other continued their route to Esneh and Syene. Desaix ordered the cavalry to set out at midnight to endeavour to come up with these latter.

We set out on the 27th, at two in the morning: at eight we found a dead crocodile on the shore of the river; it was still fresh; the length was eight feet: the upper jaw, which is the only one that has any motion, seems to close but indifferently with the under, but the throat supplies the deficiency, for it hangs as loose as a purse, and its elasticity performs the office of a tongue, of which

which this animal is entirely destitute; the nostrils and ears shut like the ear-holes of a fish, and its small close-set eyes add much to the frightfulness of its general appearance.

At nine o'clock, in making a sharp turn round the point of a projecting chain of mountains, we discovered all at once the site of the ancient Thebes in its whole extent: this celebrated city, the size of which Homer has characterized by the single expression of *with a hundred gates*, a boasting and poetical phrase, that has been repeated with so much confidence for many centuries; this illustrious city, described in a few pages dictated to Herodotus by Egyptian priests, that have been since copied by every historian, celebrated by the number of its kings, whose wisdom has raised them to the rank of gods, by laws which have been revered without being promulgated, by science in-

volved in pompous and enigmatical inscriptions, the first monuments of ancient learning which are still spared by the hand of time; this abandoned sanctuary, surrounded with barbarism, and again restored to the desert from which it had been drawn forth, enveloped in the veil of mystery, and the obscurity of ages, whereby even its own colossal monuments are magnified to the imagination, still impressed the mind with such gigantic phantoms, that the whole army, suddenly and with one accord, stood in amazement at the sight of its scattered ruins, and clapped their hands with delight, as if the end and object of their glorious toils, and the complete conquest of Egypt, were accomplished and secured by taking possession of the splendid remains of this ancient metropolis. I took a view of this first aspect of Thebes, along with the spectacle before me; the

the knees of the enthusiastic foldiers served me as a table, their bodies as a shade, whilst the dazzling rays of the burning sun enlightened this magnificent spectacle, and exhibited the electric emotion of a whole army of foldiers, whose delicate sensibility made me feel proud of being their companion, and glory in calling myself a Frenchman.

The situation of this town is as fine as can well be imagined; and the immense extent of its ruins convinces the spectator that fame has not magnified its size; for the diameter of Egypt not being sufficient to contain it, its monuments rest upon the two chains of mountains which are contiguous, whilst its tombs occupy the vallies towards the west, far on into the desert.

Four large hamlets divide amongst them the remains of the ancient monuments of Thebes, whilst the river, by the sinuosity of

its course, seems still proud of flowing among its ruins.

Soon after noon day we arrived at a desert, which was the necropolis or city of the dead: the rock, excavated on its inclined plane, presents three sides of a square, with regular openings, behind which are double and triple galleries, which were used as burying places. (See Plate XXI. Fig. 2.) I entered here on horseback, with Defaix, supposing that these gloomy retreats could only be the asylum of peace and silence; but scarcely were we immersed in the obscurity of these galleries, than we were assailed with javelins and stones, by enemies whom we could not distinguish, and this put an end to our observations. We since learnt that a considerable number of people inhabited these obscure retreats, and that probably, from the savage habits contracted there,

there, they were almost always in rebellion with authority, and had become the terror of the vicinity. Too much in haste to make a fuller acquaintance with the inhabitants, we marched back with precipitation, and this time I only saw Thebes on the gallop.

It had been my lot to stay for months at Zaoyeh, at Benesuef and Girgeh, and to pass by without stopping at the magnificent objects which I had come to visit. We arrived presently after at a temple, which I took to be of the highest antiquity, from its ruinous appearance, its thorough antique hue, its construction, which was less perfect than the rest, the extreme simplicity of its ornaments, the irregularity of its outline, and especially the coarseness of its sculpture. I took a hasty sketch of it, (as represented in Plate XXII. Fig. 2.) and galloping after the troops, who were constantly marching on, I

F 4

arrived

arrived at a second edifice much more considerable, and in a better state of preservation. I found in my way a statue of black granite; I call it granite, till it shall be determined what is the nature of that stone which has been long denominated basalt, and which is the material of the magnificent Egyptian lions, which are at the foot of the flight of steps leading to the Roman capitol. (See Plate XXIII.)

At the entrance of this temple two square mounds flank an immense gate, and against the inner wall are engraved in two bas-reliefs, the victorious combats of some hero. This piece of sculpture is in the most irregular style of composition, without perspective, plan, or distribution, like the first conceptions of the unimproved human mind. I have seen at Pompeia rude sketches done by Roman soldiers on the stucco of the walls; they

they entirely resembled in style those which I am now speaking of, which are like the first attempts of a child, before he has seen any thing whereby to arrange his ideas. Here the hero is gigantic, and the enemies whom he is overthrowing are twenty-five times smaller than himself; if this however could be meant for a piece of flattery in the arts, it was certainly ill-contrived, since the hero could gain no honour by fighting pygmies.

At some paces from this gate are the remains of an enormous colossus; it has been wantonly shattered, for the parts which are left have so well preserved their polish, and the fractures their edges, that it is evident, if the spirit of devastation in mankind had trusted to time alone to ruin this monument, we should still see it entire and uninjured. Suffice it to say, to give an idea of its dimensions, that the breadth of the shoulders is
twenty-

twenty-five feet, which would give about seventy-five for the entire height: the figure is exact in its proportions, the style middling, but the execution perfect; when overset, it fell upon its face, which hides this interesting part; the drapery being broken, we can no longer judge by its attributes whether it is the figure of a king or a divinity. Is it the statue of Memnon, or that of Osyman-dyas?—the descriptions hitherto given of this monument throw more confusion than light upon this question. If it is the statue of Memnon, which appears to me the more probable, every traveller for two thousand years must have mistaken the object of their curiosity, as will be seen by the inscription of the names on another colossal statue, of which I shall directly speak.

One foot of this statue remains, which is broken off and in good preservation; it may

be easily carried away, and may give those in Europe a scale of comparison of the monuments of this species, and will serve as a companion to the colossal feet which are in the court of the capitol at Rome. The spot where this figure stood might be either a temple or a palace, or both at the same time; for if the bas-relief would belong more properly to a royal residence, the figures of eight priests, which are in the front of two porticoes in the inner part, would peculiarly indicate a temple, except indeed they were introduced to remind the sovereign that, conformably to the law, the priests ought always to serve and assist in the exercise of monarchical power.

This ruin, which is situated on the slope of the mountain, and has never been inhabited in later times, is so well preserved in the parts that are still standing, that it appears more
like

like a new and unfinished building: several columns are seen here to their very bases, their proportions are grand, but the style, though purer than that of the first mentioned temple, is however not comparable to that of Tentyra, either for the majesty of the general design, nor for the delicacy in the execution of particular parts. It would have taken some time and examination to have made out the plan of this temple, but the cavalry were galloping on, and I was obliged to follow them closely, not to be stopped for ever in my researches.

Our attention was arrested in the plain by two large statues in a sitting posture, between which, according to Herodotus, Strabo, and those who have copied the relation of these writers, was the famous statue of Osymandyas, the largest of all these colossal figures. Osymandyas had prided himself so much on
the

the execution of this bold design, that he had caused an inscription to be engraven on the pedestal of the statue, in which he defied the power of man to destroy this monument, as well as that of his tomb, the pompous description of which now appears only a fantastic dream. The two statues still left standing, are doubtless those of the mother and the son of this prince, mentioned by Herodotus: that of the king himself has disappeared, the hand of time and the teeth of envy appear to have united zealously in its destruction, and nothing of it remains but a shapeless rock of granite; so that it requires the persevering look of the amateur, accustomed to this kind of examination, to distinguish any portions of the figure which have escaped destruction; and even those are so insignificant, that they can throw no light on its dimensions. The two statues still existing

isting are in the proportion of from fifty to sixty-five feet in height ; they are seated with their two hands on their knees ; all that remains of them shews a severity of style, and a straightness of position. The bas-reliefs and the small figures clustered round the feet of the southernmost of these statues, are not without elegance and delicacy in the execution. On the leg of the statue the most to the north, the names of the illustrious and ancient travellers who came to hear the sound of the statue of Memnon are written in Greek. We may here see the great influence which celebrity exercises over the minds of men, since, when the ancient Egyptian government and the jealousy of the priests no longer forbade strangers to touch these monuments, the love of the marvellous retained its empire over the minds of those that came hither as visitors. Thus, in the
age

age of Adrian, which was enlightened by philosophy, Sabina, the wife of this emperor, and herself a literary woman, condescended, along with the learned men who accompanied her, to acknowledge that she had heard founds which no physical cause could have produced. But the vanity of inscribing one's name on such antiquities might very easily have produced the first on the list, and the natural desire of becoming an associate in this kind of glory might have added the rest, and this is doubtless the reason of the numberless inscriptions of names which we find here, with so many dates, and in so many languages. (See Plate XXIII.)

I had hardly begun to draw these colossal figures, when I found that I was left alone with these stupendous originals, ~~and~~ the ideas which these solitary objects inspired. Being alarmed at my unprotected situation, I hastened

tened to rejoin my comrades, whose eager curiosity had already led them to a large temple near the village of Medinet-Abu. I observed as I passed by, that the ground about the tomb of Osymandyas was cultivated, and that consequently the inundation reached as far; so that although the bed of the Nile was raised, there must formerly have been some dyke to prevent the water from flooding part of the ancient town, which, when we crossed it, was a vast field of green wheat, promising an abundant harvest.

At the right, adjoining the village of Medinet-Abu, at the bottom of the mountain, is a vast palace, built and enlarged at different periods. All that I could make of it in this my first examination on horseback, was, that the lower part of this palace which abuts against the mountain, is the most ancient in its construction, and is covered with hieroglyphics,

glyphics, cut very deep and without any relief; and that, in the fourth century, the catholic religion converted it to sacred purposes, and made a church of it, adding two rows of pillars in the style of the age, to support a covered roof. At the south of this monument there are Egyptian apartments, with ladders and square windows, the only building I had yet seen here which was not a temple; and beyond this are edifices rebuilt with old materials, but left unfinished. The first eagerness of curiosity being satisfied, Desaix led us off at full gallop, as if there had been Mamelukes on the plain, and we went two long leagues farther that night, till we got to Hermontes, where we slept, and for my share I was lodged in a temple.

After dismounting, I profited by the small remains of day-light to take a figure of Typhon or Anubis. This was so often repeated

in the temple where I took up my abode, that I concluded that the whole was dedicated to him. He is represented standing up, with a belly like a pig, and breasts similar to those of the Egyptian women of the present day. Two hundred yards to the east of this temple is a large reservoir lined with fine stone, with four ladders for descending into it.

Four hundred yards further, in the same direction, are the ruins of a church, built in the fourth or fifth century, out of the ruins of the finest Egyptian antiquities: the nave was decorated with splendid columns of granite, but the whole is overthrown, and nothing is left standing but a few fragments of the choir, and the arches of the outer enclosure: this destruction is by the hand of man, for the church was too well built not to have resisted the wear of time to the present day.

At

At night I returned to my quarters, with my head confused by the profusion of objects which had passed before my eyes in so short a space of time. I felt as if I had been in a dream during the whole of this rich day; and, indeed, I could have found delicious and abundant food for curiosity for a whole month, in seeing what I had been obliged to pass over in twelve hours, without too having it in my power to devote any part of the succeeding day to reflection.

In the morning of the 28th, I saw a tamarisk of an enormous size planted on the bank of the Nile: it had been loosened at the roots by progressive inundations, and at last overthrown; the greater number of its roots had ranged themselves upright, and produced leaves; the old branches on which the tree had fallen were fixed in the earth, and served as a footstool, so that the enormous trunk,

which remained suspended horizontally, by a confusion in the system of circulation, vegetated in every direction, and gave it such a grotesque appearance, that the Turks had not failed to make a miracle of this vegetable monster, which I should have drawn if I had not at that time been much behind my division, and it would have required a good deal of accuracy to have given a faithful idea of this phenomenon.

At our halt we found another contraction of the Nile. The Lybian chain, turning suddenly towards the east, forces the Nile against the Arabian chain. The river, contracted between these two obstacles, has overcome the one which offered the least resistance, and the current has in its various swells undermined and worn through a bed of gravel, which opposed its course, below the level of the base of the Lybian bank; the
upper

upper part, thus deprived of support, has torn itself off by its weight from the adjoining portion of the hill, and the rent has formed two projecting points of rock. This rock, which is called Gibelin, or the Two Mountains, serves as a boundary to one of the subdivisions of Upper Egypt; and under the late government became a barrier for the rebel beys, who were banished into Upper Saïd, a barrier which the exiles could not pass without becoming out of the protection of the law. Some years back, Ofman-Bey, after being sent to Cossair, accompanied with men who were secretly charged to murder him, instead of embarking him for Mecca, to which place he was sentenced to be exiled, prevented the plans of his assassins, possessed himself of the vessel, which was richly laden, escaped into Upper Egypt, and assembled a party of Mamelukes in his

favour, wh^o obliged Murad to come to terms, and to cede to him the sovereignty of all the country between Gibelin and Syenc.

After this contraction of the channel of the Nile, the valley expands, without, however, our observing any improvement in the agriculture. We saw large plains, worn by the current of the waters, which were in vain waiting for the seed which they would have returned to the cultivator with a vast encrease.

On the 29th, we arrived early in the morning at Efneh, the last town of any importance in Egypt. Murad had been obliged to evacuate it a few hours before the arrival of our cavalry, and to burn here a number of his tents and all his heavy baggage, which would encumber and slacken his march. We therefore had reason to suppose that he

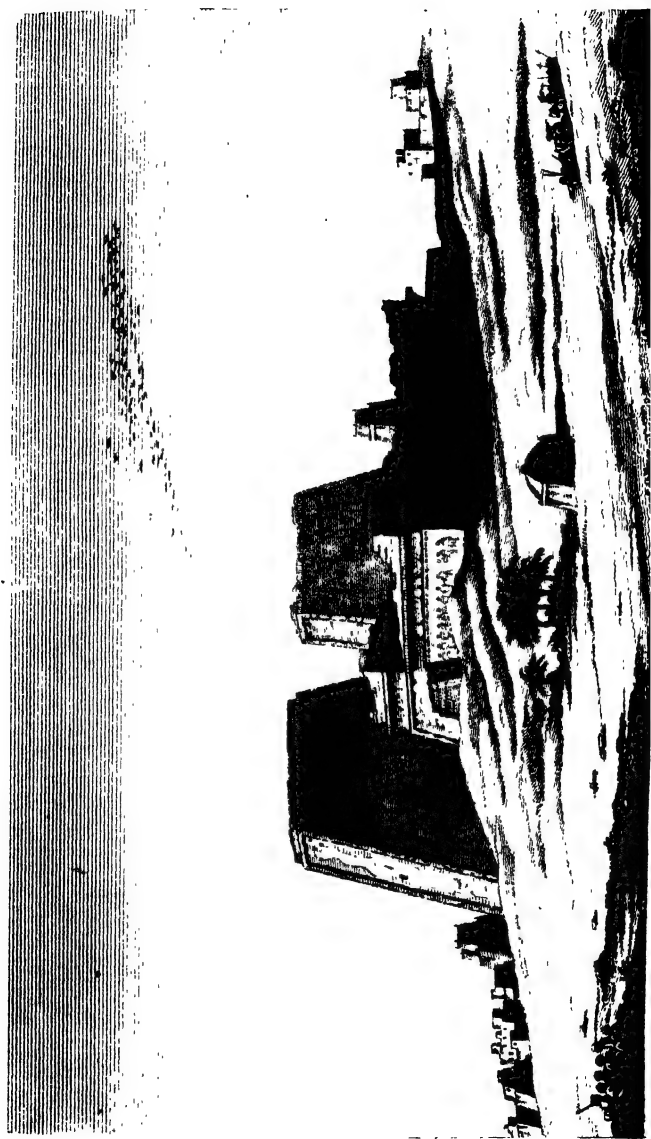
was

was determined to quit Egypt, and to bury himself in Nubia, in the hope of wearying us out, and dividing our forces; for as the country affords no resources for the supply of a large body of men marching together, he might hope to be able here to rally his forces, and to advance through the desert to attack our detachments.

Efneh is the ancient Latopolis. Some remains are still visible of its port or quay on the bank of the Nile, which has been often repaired, but, notwithstanding all that has been done for it, still remains in a very miserable condition. This town also contains the portico of a temple, which appears to me to be the most perfect monument of ancient architecture. It is situated near the bazar in the great square, and would make an incomparable ornament to this spot, if the inhabitants had any idea of its merit; but

instead of this they have deformed it by the most miserable ruined hovels, and have devoted it to the vilest purposes. The portico is very well preserved, and possesses a great richness of sculpture: it is composed of eighteen columns with broad capitals; these columns are noble and elegant, though they now appear in the most disadvantageous light; the rubbish should be cleared to find if any part of the cella remains, I took the best plan and elevation that I could of this monument. (See Plates XXVI, Fig. 2, and XXVII.)

The hieroglyphics in relief, with which it is covered within and without, are executed with great care; they contain, among other subjects, a zodiac, and large figures of men with crocodiles' heads: the capitals, though all different, have a very fine effect; and as an additional proof that the Egyptians borrowed



rowed nothing from other people, we may remark, that they have taken all the ornaments, of which these capitals are composed, from the productions of their own country, such as the lotus, the palm-tree, the vine, the rush, &c. &c. I did not quit this temple till it was absolutely necessary to pursue our route: we left half our infantry and our artillery at Efnch, in order to march with less incumbrance through a country, the resources of which were diminishing every league, and soon dwindled to little or nothing. We slept three leagues and a half short of Efnch.

On the 30th, after marching three hours, we found, three-quarters of a league off the river, on the edge of the desert, a small pyramid, fifty or sixty feet in the base, built with unhewn stones, but too small to have been able to preserve their place, and thus
the

the facing has been shattered from top to bottom.

At half after two, a little before our arrival at Etfu, we found the ruins of Hieraconpolis, which consist of the remains of a gate belonging to an edifice of considerable magnitude ; to judge by the size of the stones, the extent of ground occupied by the fragments, and the diameter of the defaced capitals, which are seen scattered on every side. The stone of which this temple is built, is of so friable a quality, that the form of the edifice is entirely lost, and none of the plan can be made out. Some yards further the ruins of another building can with difficulty be distinguished, owing to the great decay ; the other remains of the town are only a few heaps of highly burnt bricks and some blocks of granite.

We saw on the other side of the river, two
hundred

hundred Mamelukes come down along with their attendants and equipage ; we learnt since, that it was Edfey-Bey, who being wounded at Samanhut, had not chosen to pass the cataracts with the other beys We were struck with admiration at the fine and advantageous site of Apollinopolis Magna ; it commanded the river and the whole valley of Egypt ; and its magnificent temple towered over the rest like a large citadel, which keeps the adjacent country in awe. This comparison is, indeed, so naturally suggested by the situation of this edifice, that it is only known to the natives by the name of the Fortrefs. I foresaw with regret that we should only enter the town late, and quit it early in the morning. I pushed on to gain a little time to examine it before the daylight entirely left us. During this visit, I had only time to ride round this edifice, the
extent,

extent, majesty, magnificence, and high preservation of which, surpassed all that I had yet seen in Egypt, or elsewhere ; it made an impression on me as vast as its own gigantic dimensions. This building is a long suite of pyramidal gates, of courts decorated with galleries, of porticoes, and of covered naves, constructed, not with common stones, but entire rocks. Night was come on before I had time to visit the whole of this surprising monument, and I again regretted the necessity which I lay under to pass over with so much rapidity what merited such high admiration. The excellent preservation of this ancient edifice forms a wonderful contrast with the grey ruins of modern habitations built within its vast enclosure ; a part of the population of this village is contained in huts built in the courts, and around the fragments of the temple ; which, like swallows

low nests in our houses, defile them without concealing or injuring their general appearance. Besides, this singular medley, that at first sight hurts the eye, produces a picturesque contrast, which at once gives a scale of comparison, both for men and for the lapse of time ; and after all, we have no right to think it absurd for ignorant people to shelter their feeble huts against splendid objects, which have never once attracted their curiosity, whilst in France we suffer the amphitheatre of Nîmes to remain encumbered with hovels and heaps of rubbish.

Below Etfu, the cultivated country grows very narrow ; so that there is only a quarter of a league in breadth between the desert and the river. At noon we halted on the banks of the Nile : the cavalry had gone before us, but at the moment when we were setting out, we learnt that we had a desert

of seven leagues to cross; the day was too far advanced to allow us to undertake so long a march, and we therefore stopped the rest of the evening in a desolated village, where fortunately we found wood.

On the 31st, we continued our march at three in the morning. After passing for an hour through a cultivated country, we entered the desert by a mountain composed of decayed slate, free-stone, white and rose-coloured quartz, and brown flint, with several white cornelians. After marching five hours in the desert, our soldiers had their shoes torn, and were obliged to put what linen they could about their feet, and were tormented with a burning thirst. No water could be found but in the Nile, which was a league out of our way, for the banks were as arid as the desert; but the urgency of thirst prevailed, and we arrived at the river exhausted

hausted with fatigue ; but the camp equipage, the draft animals of which had had no food the night before, were so weakened by hunger, that but a few of them were able to follow. What was the general distress when it was announced that there was nothing to eat ! We looked at each other in mute consternation : but, after a while, a camel with a light load of butter came up, and some others, whose provision-sacks had been already emptied ; but by shaking out every dust of meal from the bags, and rummaging every corner, we found enough to make a distribution of a handful of flour to each : directly we got firing from a neighbouring tree, made our flour into fritters, employment drove away our gloomy ideas, and French gaiety soon prevailed, and restored our usual courage. We set out again briskly after our refreshment ; but our poor horses,

who had not regaled upon fritters, fell down from under us through inanition ; we could do nothing but lead and support them with our hands, or else we must have abandoned them ; in short, we were compelled to march, and our necessity alone made it practicable, and many are the resources contained in this single word, necessity.

Half an hour after we had passed the first desert, we came to the ruins of Silsilis, which consist of broken fragments, bricks, and the remains of a temple, the highest walls of which are now not more than three feet above the soil. One can just discover that the nave of the temple, which is covered with hieroglyphics, was surrounded with a gallery, to which, in a latter period, a portico without hieroglyphics has been added. We returned a third time into the desert ; a hyena followed the column for a considerable time.

The rocks here become granite, with flints of every colour and species, whose hardness would render them susceptible of a high polish: I also found there cornelian, jasper, and serpentine: the sand is formed of small fragments, of all the primitive and constituent parts of the granite. We arrived at an elevated stage of the mountain, where we discovered a vast extent of country, through which the Nile flows in a winding course: this river, after running along the Mokatem, returns to the north-west, and again changes its course to north. At this angle the ruins of a pharos may be perceived, which perhaps served as a light-house for this winding channel; at the other angle the heights of Ombos may be seen, with the fine monuments on its summit; at the elbow of the river one of its branches forms an inundated island, which, from this circum-

stance alone, is worth more than twenty square leagues of the neighbouring country, and its situation protects it from the incursion of the Mamelukes, as it did now from our visit. The inhabitants of the shore retired to it on our approach, abandoning to us the large village of Binban, which skirts the desert, and is equally gloomy in appearance. Here we arrived, after marching eleven hours. The drove of oxen which followed us had gone astray, and we had to wait for it, with the constant fear of its being carried off. The village offered us nothing but a few walls, which we ransacked to the very foundation. I here was witness to a scene which presented a striking contrast of savage brutality and the kindest sensibility.

Whilst I was looking at our people, whose necessities were as ingenious in bringing to light, as the care of the natives had been to conceal,

conceal, a soldier comes out of a cave, dragging after him a she-goat, which he had forced out; he is followed by an old man, carrying two young infants, who sets them down on the ground, falls on his knees, and, without speaking a word, points, with tears in his eyes, to the young children, who must perish if the goat is taken away from them. But want, which is both deaf and blind to other's distress, does not stay his murderous hand for any entreaty, and the goat is killed. At the same moment, another soldier comes up, holding in his arms another child, whose mother doubtless had been obliged to desert it in her flight from us; and this brave fellow, notwithstanding the weight of his musket, his cartridges, his knapsack, and the fatigue of four days of forced marches, had picked up this little forsaken creature, had carried it carefully for two leagues in his

arms, and, not knowing what to do with it in this deserted village, seeing one inhabitant left behind, with two children, he gently lays down his little charge beside them, and departs, with the delightful expression of one who has just performed a benevolent action.

CHAPTER XIII.

*Gazelles in the Desert—Approach to Syene—
Beautiful View of the Island of Elephan-
tina—Syene, and the Frontiers of Upper
Egypt—Quarters of the Army—Temple of
Cneph, and other Monuments of Elephan-
tina—Trade of Syene—Encounter of the
French Cavalry with Affan-Bey—Carved
Blocks of Granite—Cataracts of the Nile—
Island of Philœ—Ethiopian Village, and
its Inhabitants.*

OUR march on this day, February 1,
offered new deserts to our eye. We
found the rocks to consist alternately of gra-
nite and decomposed free-stone, forming a
brittle friable crust, like scoria. In the val-

lies in which the sand abounds, the surface is smooth and tender like snow, so that the tracks of animals are perceived with the utmost ease, and one can easily make out those that have passed since the last wind. The most frequent prints of feet that one meets with are those of the gazelle, a beautiful little animal, which is so shy and timid, that after having taken its food on the banks of the river, it retires to conceal its fears in the silence of the desert. It gives one a melancholy reflection to remark, that a beast of prey always follows the steps of this elegant and sprightly animal, the vast space of the desert does not secure it against rapacity. I saw this day two of these animals, who were of the most delicate and elegant species of this numerous family. We marched slowly and painfully, stopping every minute to pull off our shoes and to take breath. In the
afternoon,

afternoon, I found in the middle of the desert the trace of a grand antique road, bounded with large masses of cut stone which led in a straight line to Syene. In the afternoon the troops were so much fatigued, that on quitting the desert we halted at the first green spot which would afford food for our horses; I thought they would never be dragged from the place, nor our men again raised from the ground; as to myself I was quite wearied out, and remained all the night there, as if rivetted to the soil. The next day, we had but three quarters of a league to march, to rejoin our cavalry, which had only gone before to eat up all the country would afford, before our arrival; at last, however, we were in sight of Assuan or Syene, the object of our destination. The soldier now forgot his fatigues, as if he had already arrived at the promised land, not remembering

that, to return to a country of abundance, he must again cross the same painful desert which he had just left behind him; but the past is nothing to the soldier, when he can snatch a little present gratification. For myself, however, I had the most reason to be satisfied, since I was going for the first time in my life, to sit down and take a little breathing time in this country, which abounded with interesting objects for my researches.

The first good news that we learned, was, that the Mamelukes had not burned the boats, which they could not get over the cataracts. In the morning I ascended to the convent of St. Lawrence, which is but an indifferent ruin. Above is a watch-tower, from the lofty summit of which a most singular view presents itself to the eye; it seems to be the end of the world, or rather a chaos,

from

from which the air has already separated, and the watery element appears to gush from the earth, running in numerous channels, which promise fertility to nature. The first effects of its bounties are seen around the granite rocks, in the hollows of which the sand and slime brought by the waves are deposited, forming a basis for vegetation, which continues to encrease, and to embrace a larger and wider field. At Elephantina, the cultivation, the trees, and the habitations, exhibit a picture of perfection in the gifts of nature, which has given rise to the Arabian name of Keziret-el-Sag, or *the Flowery Island*, for this island. I took a drawing of the country, which is a kind of bird's eye chart. (See Plate XXX. Fig. 1.)

On the third of February we crossed over to the right bank of the river, to take possession of Assuan or Syene. Murad-Bey had
passed

passed the cataracts and divided his force over a considerable tract of country, in order to find subsistence for his Mamelukes and their horses. We were obliged to do the same with ours.

On the fifth, Defaix set out with the cavalry to go in quest of Elfy-Bey, whom we had left behind us at the right bank of the Nile. I had not quitted Defaix since we left Cairo, and I feel some pride in saying, that the moment of parting was attended with ~~mutual regret~~; we had spent together so many agreeable hours, riding a foot's pace ~~side by side~~ for twelve ~~or fifteen~~ hours successively, not in idle chat, but in waking dreams, and often after such long marches we said to each other: "How many things shall we have to talk of during the rest of our lives!" How many wise ideas on civil government, and philanthropy suggested themselves

selfes to his mind, when the sound of the trumpet and the roll of the drum ceased to give him the fever of war! How many interesting remarks would his inexhaustible memory now furnish me with, could I consult it! With what interest would he regard this work and patronize it as his own! In quitting me for a short period, he seemed to try to accustom me by degrees to a lasting separation.

I went with General Beliard to take possession of the government of Syene. During my residence in or near this town the explanation of my drawings will supply the place of a journal.

The first view which I took is that which I have just described, namely, a kind of bird's eye chart, in which, at one glance the reader may see the general aspect of the country, the entrance of the Nile into Egypt,

after flowing over the wall of granite blocks which forms its last cataracts, the island of Elephantina, between Contra-Syene and Syene, and the monuments of this latter town, in which may be distinguished the different periods of its existence. The ruins of the highest antiquity may be easily recognized; it must then have been a very considerable city, if the edifices on the right and left of the Nile and those of Elephantina formed but one town, which may be presumed, since they are only separated by a river that in this place is deep but not broad; the Arabic ruins are grouped on a rock to the eastward; below are Roman remains, which are also found in some of the monuments at Elephantina, and to all this succeeds a large village, built in a better style, and with straighter streets than in common villages, which may be attributed to the
plenty

plenty of stone and of ancient materials. In the middle is a Turkish castle, commanded on all sides, and which can be no real defence.

Our first employment was to get comfortably settled. We had very good quarters; it was the house of the kiachef, built of stone, with an upper story, terraces, and vaulted rooms: we here made beds, tables, and stools, and I found it a high luxury to undress myself, to sit and to lie down: our soldiers did the same. The second day of our establishment there were already in the streets of Syene, tailors, shoe-makers, jewellers, French barbers with their poles, eating-houses, and restaurateurs, all at a fixed price.

The station of an army offers a picture of the most rapid exercise of every resource that industry can furnish; every individual sets all
his

his abilities to work for the general advantage; but, what peculiarly characterizes a French army is, to establish superfluities and amusements at the same time and with the same care as necessities; thus we had gardens and coffee-houses, in which we amused ourselves in games with cards manufactured at Syene. At one entrance of the village is a walk with straight rows of trees pointing to the north; our soldiers here set up a mile-stone with this inscription, *Route de Paris, No. onze, cent soixante sept milles trois cents quarante*; it was some days, after having received a distribution of dates for their whole ration, that they entertained such pleasant or philosophic ideas. Nothing but death can put a period to valour combined with gaiety, the greatest misfortunes can do nothing towards it.

On this side of the river there are no
other

other remains of the Egyptian town, than a small square temple surrounded with a gallery, but so shattered and shapeless, that nothing can be seen but the embrasure between two pillars, with the capitals and a small part of the entablature; this fragment is what Savary, who confesses that he never was at Syene, relates on hear-say to be probably the remains of the antient observatory, in which, according to him, the nilometer should be sought for. I made a drawing of this small ruin, to destroy an error, of which however this ardent and elegant writer is not the author, as he has related every thing, pointed out every thing, and has often painted in a surprizing manner even what he had never seen.

Near this ruin, among the palm-trees, are the fragments of an edifice, which I think must be attributed to the Greek catholics;

two

two columns of granite are still left standing, and two door-cases of the same material, and on the ground are columns grouped against two faces of a single pilaster.

The island of Elephantina became at the same time my country house, and my palace of delight, observation, and research; I think I must have turned over every loose stone, and questioned every rock in the island. It was at its southern extremity that the Egyptian town and the Roman habitations were situated, and the Arabian buildings which succeeded them. The part occupied by the Romans can only now be made out by the bricks, the tesellated pavements, and the small fragments of porcelain and bronze, which are still found; the Arab quarter is only distinguished by the dunghills, with which they have covered the soil, a common feature to all the ruins of the edifices of this people.

Every

Every thing posterior to this time has disappeared, so as to leave scarcely the least trace of its existence, whilst the Egyptian monuments remain, devoted to posterity, and have resisted equally the ravages of man and of time. In the midst of this vast field of bricks and other pieces of baked earth, of which I have just spoken, a very antient temple is still left standing, surrounded with a pilastered gallery, and two columns in the portico. (See Plate XXXI, Fig. 1. and XXXII, Fig. 1.) Nothing is wanting but two pilasters; on the left angle of this ruin. Other edifices had been attached to it in a later period, but only some fragments were remaining, which could give no idea of their form when perfect, but only proved that these accessory parts were much larger than the original sanctuary. This latter is covered both within and without with hieroglyphics

glyphics in relief, very well cut, and in good preservation. I copied a whole side of the inner figures, which are represented in Plate LIII, Fig. 3; the corresponding side appears to be nearly a repetition of the same. This kind of picture is the more interesting to be offered to the discussion of the curious, as it possesses an unity of design which I had not before met with in this sort of decoration, commonly divided into distinct compartments. I also took one side of the outer wall, and a single pilaster: all the rest are nearly similar. (See Plate LXI,* Fig. 5, and LX, Fig. 9.) The view of the whole of this small edifice will give an idea of its importance, and high state of preservation.

Could this be the temple of Cneph, the good genius, that among the Egyptian gods,

By mistake figured Plate LXIII.

who

who approaches the nearest to our ideas of the Supreme Being? Or is the temple of this deity one which is placed six hundred paces more to the north, of the same form and size, though more in ruins, all the ornaments of which are accompanied by the serpent, the emblem of wisdom and eternity, and peculiarly that of the god Cneph? To judge from what I have seen of Egyptian edifices, this supposed temple of Cneph is the kind which was used in the earliest times, and is absolutely the same species of temple as that of Kurnu in Thebes, which appeared to me to be the most ancient of all in that city. The chief difference in the sculpture of this at Elephantina, which I have been able to discover is, that the figures have more life, the drapery is more flowing, and falls into a better form of composition. (See Plate LII, Fig. 1 and 5.) The three figures of Fig. 1,

seem to thank a hero for having delivered them from a fifth person, almost defaced, but which it may easily be seen is in a falling posture. In this sculpture there appears to be a kind of grouped composition with perspective. Can it be anterior or posterior to the time in which the Egyptians had confined within certain lines the expression of all their figures, in order to make them serve as a kind of writing or character, by the mere inspection of which their meaning might be directly understood, without requiring the particular explanation of every part. Of the last mentioned edifice nothing is preserved but a column of the portico, and one whole side of a gallery in pilasters. (See Plate XXXI, Fig. 1.)

In the middle of the isle there are two frames of a large outer door, made of blocks of granite, and ornamented with hieroglyphics.

phics. These remains certainly indicate monuments of great magnificence, the extent of which might be made out by a little digging. At the east is another fragment of a very small and highly finished edifice: all that is seen of it is the west side of a narrow chamber, or a very small temple, and the hieroglyphics that remain are perfectly well sculptured. The ornaments are loaded with the lotus, particularly the flowers of this plant, whose drooping stem appears to be revived by a figure watering it. This figure is the same as one that I have found at Lato-polis. (See Plate LX. Fig. 6.) This chamber or temple communicated with a narrower passage, which, to judge by the traces of a number of successive buildings, terminated on a gallery open to the Nile, and resting on a large embanked facing, which defended the eastern part of the island from

being worn away by the current of the river. Three porticoes of this gallery remain, and a flight of granite stairs, which dip into the river. May not this gallery, this adorned chamber, and this stair-case, be the observatory and the nilometer which travellers have in vain sought for at Syene? Full of this idea, I examined carefully the stone facing of the stairs, but could find no traces of any graduation; the steps themselves, however, might serve as a scale, and the upper part of this stair-case being blocked up with ruins, it is possible that the measures may be marked in this part which I could not examine.*

* Strabo, who had observed Syene with care, and has described it minutely, says, that this nilometer was a well which received the Nile waters, and that the marks by which the height of the inundation was estimated were engraved on the sides of this well.

All

All these buildings are founded upon masses of rock, covered with hieroglyphics, engraved with more or less care. Further on, turning towards the north, are two portions of parapet, which leave between them an opening, through which one may descend to the river: on the inner side of the right parapet is a bas-relief in marble, representing the figure of the Nile four feet in height, in the same attitude, with a colossal statue of the same subject which is at Rome. This copy of the same idea proves both that the edifice is Roman, and that this people, in their establishment at Syene, having had opportunity of adding the ornaments of luxury and superfluity to works of the first necessity, had established rather a powerful colony there than a mere military post: the baths and valuable bronze utensils, which are daily found there, support this opinion of

the richness and permanency of this colony.

The island of Elephantina, defended on the south by breakers, has been doubtless much encreased towards the north by alluvial soil. This soil becomes soon converted into cultivated lands and pleasant gardens, which, being kept perpetually watered by means of wheels and buckets, produce here four or five crops yearly; and thus the inhabitants are numerous, in easy circumstances, and courteous. When I hailed them from the opposite shore, they would come across for me in their boats, and I was soon surrounded with all the children, who offered me for sale fragments of antiquity and rough cornelians. With a few crowns I made a great number of these little ones happy, and gained the good will of their parents, who invited me to them, prepared me breakfast
in

in the temples in which I had set up my drawing apparatus ; in short, I appeared like the kind master of a garden, which contained in reality all that one seeks to imitate in decorated gardens in Europe : here were islets, rocks, deserts, plains, meadows, garden-ground, open groves, hamlets, dark woods, remarkable and numerous plants, a river, canals, mills, and sublime ruins ; a spot still more enchanting, as, like the gardens of Armida, it was surrounded with all the horrors of nature, and those of the Thebais, the contrast with which increased the enjoyment of this delightful island. Having all my senses and my imagination equally in activity, I never passed hours more deliciously occupied than those which I devoted to my solitary walks at Elephantina ; an island which alone is worth more than the whole territory on shore of the country which lies adjacent to the town.

The population of Syene is numerous: the trade, however, is confined to fenna and dates, and these two articles produce a sufficient return to pay all the other wants of the inhabitants, to maintain a kiachef, a governor, and a Turkish garrison. The fenna which grows around Syene, is of moderate quality; when fold, it is fraudulently mixed with that which grows wild in the desert, brought hither by the Barabra, and sold at nearly a hundredth part of what we give for it in Europe. It is true that it has to pay in its passage a number of duties, and it is one of the most important articles of the custom-houses of Cairo and Alexandria. The second article of exportation is that of dates; they are small and dry, but so abundant, that besides making the principal food of the inhabitants here, large boats loaded with them are daily going down the river to Lower Egypt.

We learnt by our spies, that the Mamelukes had ascended the river, and remained at as little a distance as they could above the cataracts, ravaging the two shores of the Nile, which still supplied them with some forage. They had hitherto drawn supplies of flour and dates from Deir and Bribes; but the aga who resided there, signified to them that this source must be stopped. They occupied ten leagues in length on each bank; their rear guard was no more than four leagues off us, so that they knew every step we took, as we in our turn were informed of all their movements, by the same means, and perhaps, even by the same emissaries, who served both parties faithfully with equal exactness.

General Daoust had met with Assan-Bey on the right bank of the river opposite Etfu, at the moment when he was coming down

to the Nile for water : the imminent danger he was in of losing all his equipage made him charge with fury ; the eagerness of our men to get possession of it, and a little contempt of the enemy, with which the battle of Samanhut had inspired them, made them attack with too much negligence. This battle of two hundred cavalry on each side, was rather an affray than a regular combat, and both parties gave proof of the highest valour. The charge lasted half an hour ; the field of battle remained with the French ; but Aflan-Bey obtained his main point, that of saving his baggage : on our side, we had from thirty to forty killed, and as many wounded ; twelve Mamclukes perished, and many of them were wounded ; Aflan was hurt in the leg, so that neither party had any thing to boast of by this encounter.

1 We went to seek for the barks which
the

the Mamelukes had endeavoured to navigate above the cataracts, and we wished at the same time to visit these curious objects; we met in our way with the quarries in the granite rocks, whence the blocks were taken which formed the material of the colossal statues, that have been the object of admiration to so many ages, and the ruins of which still strike us with astonishment. It seemed as if the framers wished to preserve the memorial of the masses that have produced these blocks, by leaving on the place hieroglyphical inscriptions that perhaps record the event. The operation by which these blocks were detached, must have been nearly the same as is employed in the present times, that is to say, a cleft is first cut out, and then the whole mass is split off by means of wedges of different sizes, all struck in at one time. The marks of these first opera-

tions are preserved so fresh in this unalterable material, that to look at them one would suspect that the work had been interrupted only yesterday. I took a sketch of them, (See Fig. 2. Plate XXXIII.)

The texture of this granite is so hard and compact, that the rocks which are met with in the current, instead of becoming worn and shattered by decomposition, have acquired a polish by the dashing of the waves. The finest and most abundant of this kind of stone, is the rose-coloured granite; the grey is often too micaceous; between these blocks are found veins of very brilliant quartz, strata of a red stone; which partakes of the nature and the hardness of porphyry, and masses of that black and hard stone, which has been so long taken for basalt, and which the Egyptians have often employed for statues of moderate size.

A league

A league and a half below the quarries the rocks encrease, and form a bar in the river, where we found the Mameluke barks fixed between the rocks, up to the first well below the falls: the peasants of the neighbourhood had taken out the rigging and the provisions. We here quitted the little boat in which we had come up, and walking by the side of the stream for about a quarter of an hour, we came to the part which is generally called the cataract. This is nothing but a range of rocks, over which the river flows, forming in some places cascades a few inches in height, they are so insignificant, that they can hardly be represented in a drawing; but I just sketched the bar where this celebrated navigation ends, in order to do away the impression that has been given of the great fall of these famous cataracts. (See Plate XXXI. Fig. 2.) However, they would

would make a fine picture, if they were represented with the colour which characterizes them.

The mountains, the surface of which is broken by black and ragged projections, are reflected with their gloomy aspect on the clear mirror of the stream below, which is broken and divided by sharp points of granite that roughen its channel, and form long white lines of foam wherever any of these rocks cut its smooth surface. These rough shapeless masses, with their dark hues, form a striking contrast with the soft green of the groupes of palm-trees that cluster around the irregular cliffs, and with the celestial azure blue of the clearest sky over the face of the earth. A picture faithfully representing these striking objects, would have the rare advantage of exhibiting a true and yet perfectly novel scenery. After passing the cataracts,
the

the rocks grow loftier, and on their summit rocks of granite are heaped up, appearing to cluster together, and to hang in equipoise, on purpose to produce the most picturesque effects. Through these rough and rugged forms the eye all at once discovers the magnificent monuments of the island of Philœ, which form a brilliant contrast, and one of the most singular surprises that the traveller can meet with. The Nile here makes a bend, as if to come and visit this enchanted island, where the monuments are only separated by tufts of palm-trees, or rocks that appear to be left merely to contrast the forms of nature with the magnificence of art, and to collect, in one rich spot, every thing that is most beautiful and impressive. The enthusiasm which the traveller so constantly experiences at the sight of the monuments of Upper Egypt, may appear to the reader a

perpetual and monotonous exaggeration ; but it is, however, only the simple expression of feeling which the sublimity of their character excites; and it is from the distrust that I feel at being able to give any adequate idea of their magnificence by the pencil, that I have endeavoured to do justice to them by my expressions for the surprise and admiration with which they impress the beholder.

There were no inhabitants on the shore ; they had quitted even the isle of Philœ, and had retired to a second and larger island, from which they sent loud and savage cries, which we were told were excited by their fears. We endeavoured to persuade them to send us a boat, which was moored to their bank, but without success. However, as this branch of the Nile is very narrow, I was enabled to take the views of the island, which are here added. (See Plate XXV. Fig. 2. and XXXIII. Fig. 1.)

We returned home very well satisfied with our day's work ; but this cursory view did not appear to me sufficient for objects of antiquity of such importance, and monuments of such extent and high preservation, the particular description of which would be attended with so much interest.

Some days after we learnt that the Mamelukes of the right bank were coming to forage within two leagues of our posts. We prepared to resist them, and set out with four hundred men, advancing towards Philœ by land, taking the route across the desert. This road has one peculiarity, which is, that there are evident remains of its having been tracked out, and raised as a causeway, and that there was much traffic on it in former times. This is the only part of Egypt in which a high road is absolutely necessary; but the Nile ceasing to be navigable on ac-

count of the cataracts, all the merchandize of the Ethiopian trade which is landed at Philœ must be transported by land to Syene, to be there re-embarked. All the large blocks of stone that we met with in the way were covered with hiéroglyphics, as if they were put there for the amusement of the passengers. One of the most singular of these presents the form of a seat cut out of the solid rock, with a flight of steps to climb up to it; and the whole ornamented with hieroglyphics, the greater number of which are executed with great care. (See Plate XXXII. Fig. 2.)

Another singular object near this road, is the ruins of military lines made of bricks baked in the sun, the base of which is from fifteen to twenty feet in thickness. This entrenchment extended along the valley by the road-side, and terminated at rocks and
forts

forts near three leagues from Syene. Though the materials of which these walls were built were cheap enough, the expence of putting them together must have been very great; and shews the importance attached to the defence of this point. Can these be the remains of the famous wall raised by a queen of Egypt, named Zuleikha, daughter of Ziba, one of the Pharaohs, which extended from the ancient Syene to the place where El Arish is now situated, the fragments of which the Arabs now call haif-el-adjowz, or "the old woman's wall?"

We found the inhabitants of Philœ returned to their habitation, but fully determined not to receive us. We attributed this ill-will to the fear which we gave them of us, and we continued our journey. Beyond Philœ the river is quite open and navigable: but after having passed an Arab fort, and a

mosque of the same age, the shore of the Nile becomes impracticable for travellers; and instead of a profusion of monuments and inscriptions, we only saw a barren soil left to itself, and on the rocks a few habitations, which resembled the huts of savages. We entered a desert which cut an angle of the river, in order to shorten our way; and after having for several hours travelled along valleys which were as deep and hollow as if the country was constantly exposed to storms and torrents, the Nile again opened upon us through a ravine which led to Taudi, an indifferent village on the bank of the river. At our approach the Mamelukes abandoned this village, leaving behind them their plates, their kettles, and even the soup they had made, which they intended to eat at sun-set, for it was the month of Ramadan, a kind of Lent, during which

all

all the Mussulmans, even to the soldiers, eat nothing whilst the sun is above the horizon.

We sent out a spy during the night ; and we learnt, that at day-break the Mamelukes, who were at Demiet, four leagues higher than Taudi, thinking themselves too near us, had fed their horses and set out at midnight. Our object in driving them further off being fulfilled, we set out to return to Syene. I had already seen enough of Ethiopia, of the Gublis and their wives, whose extreme ugliness can only be equalled by the savage jealousy of their husbands. I saw some of the women, for as I gave the men less apprehension than our soldiers, they put a number of them under my protection in a cabin, before the door of which I had taken up my quarters for the night. They had been taken by surprise at the sudden arrival of our people at the close of evening,

and had not had time to fly and hide themselves in the rocks, or to swim across the river. They appeared to have the fullen stupidity of downright savages. A rugged soil, fatigue, and insufficient food, must, doubtless, impair in them all the charms of nature, and give them even in youth the marks of decrepitude. But the men seem to be of another species; for their features are delicate, their skin fine, their countenance lively and animated, and their eyes and teeth admirable. Lively and intelligent, they appear to throw so much clearness and conciseness in their language, that a short phrase is always a complete answer to questions that are put to them: their vivacity more resembles ours than that of the other oriental nations: they are quick in understanding and serving, and still more nimble in thieving, and have a greediness for money, which
keeps

keeps pace with their great frugality, and can only be justified by their extreme poverty. To these reasons we may impute their leannefs, which is not at all connected with ill health, for their colour, though black, is full of life and blood, but their muscles are only tendons, absolutely without fat, so that I did not see a single person among them who was even plump. Fig. 4, of Plate XLV. will give the reader an idea of their form and general aspect.

CHAPTER XIV.

Attack on Philoe and Expulsion of the Inhabitants—Monuments in the Island—Different Periods of Egyptian Architecture—French Fort built at Syene—Antient Monastery of Cenobites beyond the Cataracts—Voyage up the River above Syene—Monuments of Ombos—Celebrated Quarries of Gebel Silsilis, with sculptured Tombs adjoining—Crocodiles—Proceedings of the Mamelukes.

WE could only keep our persevering enemy at a distance from us by starving the country between us and them. We therefore bought up all the cattle, paid for the green crops on the land, and the inhabitants assisted us themselves in pulling up
from

from the ground every source of provision, and followed us with their domestic animals. Thus carrying off with us the whole population, we left behind us nothing but a desert. In returning, I was again struck with the sumptuous appearance of the edifices of Philœ; and I am persuaded that it was to produce this effect upon strangers entering their territory, that the Egyptians had collected upon their frontier such a splendid group of monuments. Philœ was the entre-pôt of a commerce of barter between Ethiopia and Egypt; and wishing to give the Ethiopians a high idea of their resources and their magnificence, the Egyptians had raised so many sumptuous edifices on the confines and natural frontier of their empire, Syene and the Cataracts. We had another parley with the inhabitants of Philœ, and it was more explicit: they signified to us, that if we

were to come there every day for two months successively, they would never let us land. We were obliged to submit this time to their determination; but as it would have given a bad example to the country to allow a handful of peasants to brave us with such insolence close by our establishments, we resolved on the next day to try if we could not make them change their determination. Accordingly on the morrow, we returned with two hundred men; as soon as they saw us, they put themselves in a posture of defence, and defied us in the manner of savages, with loud cries, which the women repeated. The inhabitants of the neighbouring larger island, immediately collected in arms, which they made to glitter in the sun like sword-players; some of them were quite naked, holding in one hand a sabre, and in the other a buckler, others had rampart-musquets with matchlocks,

matchlocks, and long pikes, and in a moment all the east side of the rock was covered with enemies. We still cried out to them that we were not coming to do them any harm, and we only wanted to enter amiably into their island; they answered that they would never let us approach, or furnish us with the means of landing on their shores, and that they were not Mamelukes, to fly before us: this bragging speech was closed with loud shouts which resounded on all sides; they wished for the fight; they had defended themselves against the Mamelukes: they had defeated their neighbours; and they now wished to have the glory of resisting us, and even giving us defiance. Immediately the order was given to our fappers to level the huts on the shore, to furnish us with wood for a raft: this act was a declaration of war; they fired on us, and posting themselves

selves in the clefs and caves of their rocks, they kept up a brisk and well-directed fire on us. At this moment one of our field-pieces came up, the first sight of which carried their rage to the highest pitch; but from this time the communication between Philœ and the larger island was broken, the people of the latter drove off their herds and cattle, made them cross an arm of the river, and followed them into the desert.

We found that the palm-tree wood was too heavy and took water, which compelled us to defer the descent till the next day; and in the mean time our troops remained on the shore, and every necessary was collected in order to construct a raft to hold forty men. This business employed us the whole of the following day, and this delay encreased the insolence of these wretches, who dared to propose to the general to pay a hundred piastres

piastres to be allowed to come alone and disarmed into the island. The scene, however, was soon changed, when on a sudden they saw the larger island covered with our volunteers, whose descent had been protected by grape-shot: terror succeeded, as usual, to headstrong rashness; men, women, and children, all threw themselves into the river to escape by swimming; and preserving their ferocious character, we saw mothers drowning their children whom they could not carry away with them, and mutilating the girls to save them from the violence of the victors. When I entered on the island the next day, I found a young girl seven or eight years old, who had been cut with brutal cruelty in such a manner, as to prevent her from satisfying the most pressing necessity of nature, and it was only by a counter-operation and a bath, that I was able to save the life of this
unfortunate

unfortunate little creature, who was very pretty. Others of a more advanced age had not recourse to such severities, and chose for themselves companions from among the victors. In a word, the population of the island was dispersed in a few minutes, having suffered a most serious and irreparable loss.

They had pillaged the boats which the Mamelukes had not been able to get above the falls, and had formed magazines of this booty, which had made them immensely rich, in comparison with their neighbours, and might have secured to them repose and easy circumstances for a number of years; in a few hours they were reduced to beggary, destitute of support, both for the present and the future, and were obliged to go and solicit an asylum from those on whom they had made war a few days before. Our soldiers were employed the rest of the day in evacuating

cuating the magazines of the larger island, and I made use of this time in making drawings of the rocks and antiquities.

The ruins in this island consist of a small sanctuary, faced by a portico of four columns with very elegant capitals, to which had been added at a later period another portico, which doubtless was attached to the circumvallation of the temple. The most ancient part, which was also constructed with more care, was ornamented in a higher degree than the rest; the use made of it in the rites of the catholic religion has impaired the original character, by adding square arched doorways. In the sanctuary, close to the figures of Isis and Osiris, may still be seen the miraculous impression of the feet of St. Anthony, or St. Paul the hermit.

The next day was the finest to me of my whole travels: I possessed seven or eight mo-

numents in the space of six hundred yards, and could examine them quite at my ease, for I had not by my side any of those impatient companions who always think they have seen enough, and are constantly pressing you to go to some other object, nor had I in my ears the beating of drums as a signal to muster, or to march, nor Arabs nor peasants to torment me; I was alone in full leisure, and could make my drawings without interruption. (See the plan of the island Plate XXXIV.) This was my sixth visit to Philœ; the five first I had employed in taking views of the shores of the vicinity.

As soon as I could set foot in the island, I began first by going over all the inner part, to take a general survey of the various monuments, and to form a kind of topographical chart containing the island, the course of the river and the adjacent characteristic scenery.

scenery. I found a convincing proof that this group of monuments had been constructed at different periods, by several nations, and had belonged to different forms of religious worship; and the union of these various edifices, each of them in itself regular, and crowded together in this narrow spot, formed an irregular group of most picturesque and magnificent objects. (See Plate XXXIII. Fig. 1.) I could here distinguish eight sanctuaries or separate temples, of different dimensions, built at various times, and the limits of each had been respected in the construction of the succeeding ones, which had impaired the regularity of the whole. A part of the additions to the original buildings had been made with a view of connecting the old to the new, avoiding, with great dexterity, false angles and general irregularities. This kind of confusion of the archi-

tectural lines, which appear like errors in the plan, produce in the elevation a picturesque effect, which geometrical rectitude cannot give, it multiplies objects, forms elegant groups, and offers to the eye more richness than cold symmetry can ever command. I could here convince myself of the truth of a remark which I had before made at Thebes and Tentyra, which is, that the mode of building with the ancient Egyptians was, first to erect large masses, on which they afterwards bestowed the labour of ages, in the particulars of the decoration, beginning their work with shaping the architectural lines, proceeding next to the sculpture of the hieroglyphics, and concluding with the stucco and the painting. All these distinct periods of work are very obvious here, where nothing is finished but what belongs to the highest antiquity: whereas a part of the subordinate

ordinate buildings, which served to connect the various monuments, had been left in many particulars without finish, without sculpture, and even incomplete in the building.

The great and magnificent oblong monument, exhibits these different periods of workmanship; it would be difficult to assign any use to this edifice, if the presence of certain ornaments representing offerings had not pointed it out to be a temple. It has, however, the form neither of a portico nor of a temple; the columns which compose its outer circumference, and which are engaged in the wall only half their height, support nothing but an entablature and a cornice, without roof or platform: it only opened by two opposite doors, without lintels, which made a straight passage through in the longitudinal direction. As it was

doubtless built in the later period of the Egyptian power, it shews the perfection of art in the highest purity; the capitals are admirable in beauty and execution, the volutes and the foliage are gracefully waved, like the finest Greek architecture, and are symmetrically diversified like those of Apolinopolis, that is to say, differing from the contiguous capitals, and similar to the corresponding ones, and all are exactly kept within the same parallel. (See Plate XXIX, Fig. Q.)

It gave me no little trouble to clear, in my imagination, from the surrounding fragments, these long galleries encumbered with ruins, to follow the lines of the quays, to raise up the sphinx and the obelisks, to restore the broken communication between the steps and staircases. Urged on at once by every kind of curiosity, and fearing to impart

impart my erroneous conjectures to those to whom I intended to give an account of my sensations and my researches, I wished to trace on my plan the precise state of the ruins, and the confused heap of fragments, and from such a plan to discuss the numerous points which were involved in doubt and uncertainty. What could be the meaning of this vast number of sanctuaries, so contiguous to each other, and yet so distinct? Were they consecrated to different divinities, were they votive chapels, or places devoted each to particular ceremonies of religious worship? The innermost temples contained still more mysterious sanctuaries, such as monolithic temples, or tabernacles of a single stone, containing, perhaps, what was most precious and most sacred to the worshippers; perhaps even the sacred bird, which represented the presiding deity of the

L 4 temple ;

temple: the hawk, for example, the emblem of the sun, to whom the building might be consecrated. On the ceilings of the same portico were painted astronomical pictures, the theories of the elements; on the walls, religious ceremonies, images, priests, and gods. (as represented in Plate LII. Fig. 2 and 3.) by the side of the gates gigantic portraits of certain sovereigns, or emblematical figures of strength or power, threatening a group of suppliant figures, which they hold with one hand by the hair of the head. (See Plate XL. Fig. 4.) Can these be rebellious subjects, or vanquished enemies? I should incline to the latter opinion, because the figures, which certainly represent Egyptians, have never long hair.

Besides this vast enclosure, in which these numerous temples were connected and grouped together by dwellings for the priests,
there

there were two temples standing apart ; the larger of the two I have already spoken of, the smaller is one of the most beautiful that can be conceived, in perfect preservation, and so small, that it almost gives one the desire of carrying it away. I found within it some remains of a domestic scene, which seemed to be that of Joseph and Mary, and suggested to me the subject of the flight into Egypt, in a style of the utmost truth and interest. If ever we should be disposed to transport a temple from Africa to Europe, this which I am speaking of should be selected for the purpose ; for, besides the practicability of such an operation afforded by its small dimensions, it would give a palpable proof of the noble simplicity of Egyptian architecture, and would shew in a striking manner, that it is character, and not extent alone, which gives dignity to an edifice.

Besides

Besides the Egyptian monuments, Greek and Roman ruins are found at the south-east of the island, which appear to me to be the remains of a small port, and a custom-house, of which the wall of the façade is decorated with pilasters and arcades of the doric order: some standing fragments of columns shew an open gallery, or a kind of portico in front; between these ruins and the Egyptian monuments, the sur-base of a catholic church may be remarked, which is built of antique fragments, mixed with crosses and Greek ornaments of the later ages; for in these countries catholicism has been too poor to remove entirely her own worship from the pomp of idolatrous temples. After having established her saints in the face of the Egyptian deities, she has often painted a St. John, or St. Paul, by the side of the goddess Isis, and disguised Osiris into St.

St. Athanasius ; or else, quitting the heathen temples altogether, she has dilapidated them, and taken the ready-made materials to construct her own edifices of religious worship.

What a profusion of objects of curiosity ! —but the time was gliding by so fast, that I wished to stay the course of the sun. Having employed many hours in observation, I began to make drawings and measurements ; but I saw that our people had finished clearing the enemy's magazines, and I could not hope to return to Philœ, for I had not here such kind friends as at Elephantina, and the troops had already been too much fatigued with the siege of this little island. I at last quitted this spot, with my eyes tired out by so many objects, and my mind filled with the various recollections attached to it : I left it at night, loaded with my treasures,
and

bringing with me my little girl, whom I entrusted to the sheik of Elephantina, to restore her to her parents.

The plan was formed of fortifying Syene; the engineer Garbé had chosen an esplanade on an eminence on the south of the city, on which to construct a fort, which should command all the approaches, and overlook the adjacent country.. There were neither shovels, pickaxes, hammers, nor trowels, but all these articles were forged; bricks could not be made for want of wood, but they were collected out of all the old Arab buildings in the place. Our brave twenty-first regiment, like the Roman cohorts who had inhabited the same place, knew no difficulties, or surmounted them all. Every individual was required to make two journeys daily to the spot, in order to transport materials; many of the men could with difficulty drag their
legs

legs to the spot, but not one failed in complying with the requisition: the bastions were traced out, and the labour was conducted with so much speed, that in a few days the fortrefs began to appear above the foundations; and in the same time we bastioned and embattled an old Roman building, which had been a bath, and was in very good preservation, and which, from its situation, had the double advantage of protecting and commanding the river.

The termination of the march of the French through Egypt was inscribed on a granite rock beyond the cataracts. I took advantage of a reconnoitering party being pushed to the desert on the left bank, to go and visit the quarries of which Pocock speaks, and an ancient monastery of cenobites. After marching an hour, we discovered this monument in a small valley, surrounded
with

with shattered rocks, and with sands produced by their decomposition. The detachment, pursuing its destination, left me alone in this spot.

They were hardly gone when I was alarmed at my solitary situation. I was lost among long corridors, and these melancholy vaults echoed with the sound of my feet, the only noise with which this profound silence had been disturbed perhaps for ages. The cells of these monks resembled the cages of animals in a menagerie; they were recesses seven feet square, and only enlightened by a dismal window, six feet from the ground: this refinement of austerity, however, only concealed from the eye of the recluse the view of the vast expanse of heaven, an equally boundless horizon of sand, and a bright uninterrupted light, as melancholy as night, and more wasting to the corporeal frame,

and

and perhaps more impressive of the gloomy picture of their solitude. In this dungeon a bed of bricks, and a recess, serving as a closet, were all the conveniences which had been added to this space between four walls; and a tower placed by the side of the gate, shews also that even the austere repast of these cenobites was taken in solitude. Nothing indicated the remains of the habitation of man, but some short sentences written on the walls; and I fancied I could trace in these inscriptions their last sentiments, and the only memorial which they would leave to those who were to succeed them—a vain attempt, which time, that destroys every thing, has entirely frustrated. I presented them to my imagination as dying, and still striving, with fluttering speech, to utter a few words. Oppressed with this succession of gloomy objects, I hastened to the court,

a space enclosed with lofty embattled walls, covert ways, and embrasures for cannon; every thing announced that the forms of war had succeeded the horrors of silence in this fatal place; that this edifice, torn from the cenobites, who had raised it with so much zeal and perseverance, had at different periods served as a retreat to the vanquished, or as an advanced post to the victorious army.

The differences of style in its construction may serve as a history of this monument. Being begun in the first ages of catholicism, all that was then raised still bears the mark of greatness and magnificence: what war has afterwards added has been done hastily, and is still more in ruins than the original construction. In the court a small church, built of unbaked bricks, shews further that a smaller number of recluse have returned after a considerable

siderable time to resume possession of these walls; and finally, a more recent destruction seems to indicate that it is only a few ages since this spot has been entirely given up to the silence and desolation that prevails all around this gloomy edifice.

The detachment which had left me here now came back for me, and it was like rising from the tomb. With regard to the quarries which I found in the neighbourhood, they are not those out of which the obelisks were cut, for these are always of granite, and the granite rocks are at a distance from this spot. The rocks here are free-stone; the only objects of curiosity are the fragments of the inclined roads, over which the masses of stone were rolled, and thus conducted to the river, to be there embarked for the different edifices where they were to be employed.

We learnt that the Mamelukes, who had

fled before us at Damiet, had taken the desert on the right bank of the river, and were going down the stream to rejoin Affan-Bey; that Murad, after violent debates, had collected all the provisions which the upper country would furnish, and was returning by the left side through the desert, leaving behind him only the aged Solyman, who kept possession of Bribe with eighty Mamelukes. Having nothing more to do at Syene, we left it the 25th of February. I could still have willingly remained there a fortnight longer, but I should have feared to wait for the burning winds of the spring, and my health had already had a painful attack: three days of east wind in January had made the atmosphere as oppressively hot as it is with us in the dog days; to this had succeeded so cold a north wind, that in four hours it had given me a fever. In hopes of
some

some rest, I had put myself on board the barks; they were to sail as high up as the troops, who were resuming the journey which I had just taken; and I hoped in travelling by the river to see Ombos, and the quarries of Gebel Silfilis, which I had passed at some distance to my left, in my excursion up the stream.

I was hardly embarked, when I experienced all the inconveniences of this mode of conveyance. The contrary wind, the stupidity of the natives, who could not be made to work the vessels, and the fruitless cries of our provençals, every thing conspired to torment us. We were a long while working up to Com-Ombos, and just then the wind became favourable for passing it; our flotilla were in too much haste for me to venture to propose stopping there even a single hour, so that I had just time to give it a glance in

failing by, and to take a hasty sketch of the general site, and the fine position of the monuments. The ancient Ombos, where the crocodile was revered, is still called Com-Ombos (the mountain Ombos) and it is situated on an eminence, which commands the country, and projects out to the very margin of the river. If all the fragments which are here seen belonged to a single edifice, it must have been immense. In the centre is a grand portico of columns with wide capitals, in very large proportion; on the south, one gate is preserved entire; it joined a wall of circumvallation, which is destroyed; at the west, and on the bank of the Nile, an enormous mole was raised which is at present in ruins at its upper part; the inundations of the river have laid bare its foundations for sixty feet in depth, they were constructed with the same solidity and magnificence as
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the ornamental part. Towards the north, in the same direction, the remains of a temple or gallery may be seen, in smaller proportion, with columns and capitals. In the open space between these two last edifices, was a parapet made of hewn stone, which opened to the view the grand temple in the middle, and must have produced a theatrical and magnificent effect. It is very well proved that the Egyptians were more attached to magnitude, even in producing picturesque beauties, than regular symmetry; they supplied the want of this latter by noble piles of buildings, by richness, by beautiful parts, and by impressive effect. Were they wrong in this idea? The question is of considerable magnitude. However this may be, and whatever composed the remainder of the ancient town of Ombos, it could not but offer a very majestic view when entire; since, di-

lapidated as it is, and encumbered with vile huts, the forms of beauty which it displays produce a most magic picture of splendid ruin to the beholder.

The next day I was more fortunate : we anchored opposite the large quarries of free-stone cut in the mountains, which form the banks of the Nile here on either side. This spot is called Gebel Sililis, and is situated between Etfu and Ombos. The stone of these quarries being of an equal grain and uniform texture throughout, blocks may be cut out of them as large as can be desired ; and it is doubtless to the beauty and unalterability of this material, that we owe the vast size and fine preservation of the monuments which are our admiration at the present time, so many centuries after the date of their construction. From the immense excavations, and the quantity of fragments which
may

may still be seen in these quarries, we may suppose that they were worked for some thousands of years; and they alone might have supplied the materials employed for the greater part of the monuments of Egypt. The distance would, in fact, prove no obstacle to the working of these quarries, since the Nile, during its inundation, would constantly come and float the boats which were loaded during the dry season, and carry them to the place of their destination.

The mania of erecting monuments among the Egyptians, shews itself on every side in these quarries; which, after having furnished materials for the erection of temples, were themselves consecrated by monuments, and decorated with religious edifices. On the shore of the Nile may be seen porticoes with columns, entablatures, and cornices, covered with hieroglyphics, all cut out of the solid
M 4 rock;

rock; and likewise a large number of tombs, also hollowed out of the mountain. These tombs are still very curious, though they are disfigured with trenches and rubbish.

In several of these tombs small private chambers are found, many of which contain large sealed figures; these chambers are adorned with hieroglyphics traced on the rock, and terminated with coloured stucco, representing constantly offerings of bread, fruits, liquors, fowls, &c. The ceilings, also of stucco, are ornamented with painted scrolls in an exquisite taste; the floor is inlaid with a number of tombs of the same dimensions and form as are given to the cases of mummies, and equal in number to the sculptured figures: those that represent men have small square beards, with a head-dress hanging behind over the shoulders; the women have the same dresses, but falling down in front
over

over their naked necks. These latter are commonly represented with one arm passing within the arm of the figure beside them, and the other holding a lotus flower, a plant of Acheron, the emblem of death. The tombs that contain but a single figure are probably those of men who have died in celibacy; where three are contained, they represent perhaps a husband who had two wives, either at one time or successively. The access to these tombs being always made by violence, I could not observe how they were intended to open and shut; all that I could distinguish in the fragments that remained was, that the doors were all decorated with jambs covered with hieroglyphics, and surmounted with a coping, which forms a cornice, and an entablature on which a winged globe is always sculptured.

On the side of these doors I have often
met

met with the figure of a woman in the attitude of grief; perhaps a widow lamenting the loss of her husband. This is represented at Fig. 4. Plate LII.

The choice of this situation for the habitations of the dead, shews, that at all times in Egypt, the silence of the desert has been the asylum of death, since even now the Egyptians carry their dead into the desert three leagues from their habitations, that the dryness of the sands may preserve them from corruption; and they go thither every week to pray over these tombs. I had hardly drawn the most interesting of these quarries, when a favourable wind summoned us on board.

In approaching Esneh we again found crocodiles: they are not to be seen at Syene, but re-appear above the cataracts: they seem to prefer certain reaches of the river, and
parti-

particularly from Tentyra to Ombos; they abound most of all near Hermontes. We here saw three of them; one, much larger than the rest, was nearly twenty-five feet long; they were all asleep, so that we could approach them within twenty paces, and we had time to distinguish all the peculiarities which give them such a hideous aspect: they resembled dismounted cannon. I fired on one with a heavy musquet, the ball struck him and rebounded from his scales; he made a leap of ten feet, and dived into the river.

Four leagues short of Efneh, I saw a quay faced with stone, on the edge of the river, and two hundred yards further was a pyramidal gate much in ruins, along with six columns of the portico and gallery of a temple, which must have been dedicated to Chnubis. We had a good wind, and it would

would have been a crime of treason against the service, to request a delay for the purpose of making a drawing, so that I could only take a sketch of it as we passed by.

Half a league lower we saw four other crocodiles.

At day-break we arrived at Esnēh. On landing I heard the drums beat to muster the forces. I had had already enough of travelling by water, so that in ten minutes after setting foot on shore I was on horse-back, turning my back on Apollinopolis and Latopolis, many particulars of which I still had to examine. But such was the chance of war; and I ought to think myself very happy that the obstinacy of Murad had caused me to visit Syene. He appeared to have had no other plan than that of constant perseverance, following every day the impulse of the moment, and the event of circumstances.

The coalition of the beys was already broken; Solyman had remained at Dëir; Affan, with forty Mamelukes, had separated from Murad as high as Esneh, and had gone up still higher to Etfu; all the sheiks on the left side must have parted from him lower down; and Murad himself, left alone with his three hundred Mamelukes, had been about to descend below Siut, but being met at Suham, below Girgeh, by General Friand, who had broken the assembly of troops, which he was again collecting, he took the road to Eluah, one of the oases, where he remained, waiting to see what chance might turn out in his favour. There had been two actions between the Mecca soldiers and General Friand on the left bank, between Thebes and Kous; six hundred of these adventurers had perished in the two encounters; but it was said that the sheref
of

of Mecca himself was advancing with six thousand troops to join the eight or nine hundred that remained out of the first crusade.

CHAPTER XV.

Arrival at Hermontis—Visit the Necropolis of Thebes—Arrive at Kous—Capture of the Flotilla by the Meccans—Battle of Benhute—Fortress stormed—Critical Situation of the French Army—Reach Kenah—Attempt to surprise the Enemy—Retreat of the Mamelukes into the Desert—New Position of the Army.

WE arrived at Hermontis in the morning of the 4th of March. We there halted, in order to procure intelligence of the Mamelukes, the Meccans, and the several detachments of our army, which was at this moment distributed over a considerable extent of country.

Having already seen the temple here, was reduced to a second visit to the hieroglyphics, and I took drawings of all those that appeared to me the most useful to be presented to the researches of the learned on my return. (See Plate LX. Figs. 2, 3, 4, and 5.)

I had now a better opportunity of observing the site of the ancient town, which had had a wall of circumvallation, and several temples. But for ever temples! not a single public edifice, not a single house, nor even royal palace, which had been able to resist the ravages of time! What then were the people, and who the sovereigns? It should seem that the former were composed of slaves, the latter pious leaders, and the priests humble and hypocritical despots, concealing their tyranny from the people by the name of a vain monarch, and possessing all
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the science that was then known, which they wrapped up in emblem and mystery, to put a barrier between them and the people. The king was served by priests, counselled by priests, fed by them, instructed by them; every morning, after having dressed him up, they read to him the duties of a sovereign towards his people, and towards his religion; they then led him to the temple; and the rest of the day, like the doge of Venice, he was never without fix counsellors, who still were priests. With such precautions, they might perhaps be tolerably secure of never having a very bad king; but what was the gain for the people, if the priests supplied his place? The only two sovereigns who, according to history, dared to shake off the yoke, were Cheops and Cephrenes, who shut up the temples for twenty years; but these were regarded as impious

and rebellious princes, and were recorded as such in the annals which the priests composed and handed down to posterity.

The palace with a hundred chambers, the only palace mentioned in the history of Egypt, was the work of a new form of government, in which the priests could no longer possess the same influence. The famous canals, of which history speaks so pompously, have preserved no magnificence, have neither caufeways nor fluices, and the only facings and quays that I have met with on the banks of the Nile are very trifling works, compared to those colossal and immortal temples, whose precincts occupied a very large proportion of the space included within the walls that surrounded the towns. The jesuits of Paraguay, perhaps, might have let us into the secret of the system of theocratic dominion; and in this case I should

should see in the rich country of Egypt nothing but a gloomy and mysterious government, weak kings, and a sad unhappy people.

On the 8th we set out on our march to meet Osman-Bey, who, we were informed, was to pass the Nile at Kenéh. I had again the mortification of crossing the ground occupied by the ancient Thebes, with still less opportunity of examining it than at first; without measuring a single column, without taking a single sketch, without approaching a single monument, we followed the course of the Nile, avoiding both the temples of Medinet-Abu, the Memnonium, the temples of Kurnu, which I passed on my left, and those of Luxor and Karnak on my right—still temples—nothing but temples! and not a vestige of the hundred gates so celebrated in history; no walls, quays, bridges, baths, or theatres; not a single edifice of public utility

or convenience: notwithstanding all the pains which I took in the research, I could find nothing but temples, walls covered with obscure emblems, and hieroglyphics, which attested the ascendency of the priesthood, who still seemed to reign over these mighty ruins, and whose empire constantly haunted my imagination.

The space occupied by this incomprehensible town, now infolds four villages and as many hamlets, which appear thinly scattered over vast fields; as a few wild shoots recall to the passenger the existence of some stately tree, celebrated by the majesty of its shade, or the abundance of its fruit. Quit-ting with regret this famous district, we halted in the village on the west side, the quarter of the ancient necropolis, where I again found the inhabitants of Kurnu disputing our entrance into the tombs, which they had
taken

taken as their asylum. We must have killed them before we could persuade them that we did not mean them any harm, and we had not time to enter into dispute; we therefore contented ourselves with blockading the openings, whilst we took a short repast on the spot, and I took advantage of this halt to finish my drawing of the desert, and the outer view of these habitations of the dead. (See Plate XXI. Fig. 2.)

Towards the evening one of our spies gave us notice, that the soldiers from Mecca, united to Osman-Bey, were entrenched at Benhute, three leagues before Kench, where they were waiting for us: he told us further, that they had artillery with them, and that they were determined on hostilities, and on taking the chance of a battle; and added, that they had stopped several of our barks on the Nile; and after an obstinate combat, in

which many of the peasants and Meccans had been killed, the French had been overpowered by numbers, and had been all maſſacred. We ſlept on the banks of the river, and this was to be paſſed before we could come up with the enemy ; ſo we waited for our barks to come up. We ſoon were convinced, beyond a doubt, that we were ſeen by the enemy from the oppoſite ſhore, for we perceived armed horſemen conſtantly paſſing and repaſſing. We then marched back to meet our convoy, which we ſoon joined ; and all the reſt of the day was employed in the paſſage of the river, which we made good at El Kamoutch. On the 10th we reſumed our march, and on our arrival at Kous, the report which we had heard in the evening was confirmed.

Kous, which is placed at the entrance of the opening of the deſert which leads to
Berenice

Berenice and Cossair, is still beautiful on the south side. Its immense plantations of melons, and its numerous and abundant gardens, must make it appear delicious to the inhabitants of the shores of the Red Sea, and to the thirsty travellers who have just crossed the desert. It has succeeded to the commerce and catholic establishment of Copthos; for the Copts are still its most numerous inhabitants. Their zeal induced them to come and give us all the intelligence which they had been able to collect, and they accompanied us in person, and followed us with their good wishes to the very confines of their territory. I was struck with the sincere interest which the sheik expressed for our fate, who, believing that we were marching on to certain death, gave us the most circumstantial advice, without concealing from us any of the dangers to which we were exposed,

advised us with great judgment on every particular which could render the encounter less fatal to us, followed us as far as he could, and parted from us with tears in his eyes. Desaix had before been a week at Kous, and had seen much of the sheik; and the tender interest which the latter shewed for us, was the natural result of the favourable opinion which he must have formed of the frank and communicative disposition of our leader, and of that mild and unvarying equity which afterwards obtained for him the title of the Just; the most honourable appellation which could be obtained by a conqueror and a stranger, arrived in an enemy's country on purpose to make war.

~~But~~ We took but little heed of the battle which it was said our boats had been engaged in, and we were far from having a just idea of the importance of the intelligence given

us. We were now but four leagues off the enemy; an hour after our march through Kous, we observed, at the foot of the desert, the ruins of Copthos, famous in the fourth century by its commerce with the east: nothing of its ancient splendour can be distinguished; but the extent of the heaps of ruins with which it is surrounded, points out that of the site of the ancient city. All that remains of the old town, is as dry and uninhabited as the desert, on the border of which it is situated.

We were scarcely past Copthos, when we were informed that the enemy had begun their march; we halted, and after a slight repast, resumed our course to meet them. We soon perceived their standards, which were distributed over more than a league of ground; we continued to advance in the order that we had first taken, that is to say,
a square

a square battalion, flanked with a single three-pounder field-piece, and fifteen cavalry; we looked like a single point coming across a line. We soon heard the shouts of the enemy, and we came to action at a village, which the extremity of their line had just occupied; we detached our marksmen, who immediately were closely engaged with them; but, notwithstanding several shot from our field-piece, they did not give way, for their rash valour supplied the want of sufficient arms. After this advanced body had been cut to pieces, rather than routed, we found more resistance in the villages, where the enemy were more on an equality with us, by having some fire-arms, and the protection of walls; we however repulsed them as far back as another village, a quarter of a league farther off. At this moment the Mamelukes began to parade before us, and

to

to make a feint of charging our right, to divert us from pursuing the advantage that we had just gained over their ally : however, we marched straight up to them, without discontinuing the engagement with the Mec-
cans : our determined advance, and some discharges of cannon, delivered us from the Mamelukes, who were not so much in earnest
as the Meccans, and only wished to try if the number and valour of their allies would compel us to detach against them so many of our men as would weaken our grand square, and allow them to charge us with advantage. Having dislodged the infantry of our enemy from the second village, we came to a small plain before Benhute, where we knew that the greater body of the enemy was entrenched, and to which all the fugitives had retired. We expected to have a bloody battle, but not to be cannonaded in

form by a battery which fired both grape and bullets, which reached our square, and even went beyond us. I now saw death close at my side; in the short time of ten minutes that we stopped, three persons were killed whilst I was speaking to them. I dared no longer to speak to any one, for the last was struck by a ball, which we both saw coming up ploughing the ground before it, and appearing to be almost spent. My friend lifted up his foot to let it pass him, when a sudden leap of the ball struck him on the heel, and tore the muscles of his leg, making a wound which the next day proved fatal to this young officer, as we wanted the necessary instruments for amputation.

We fancied that, according to the custom of the country, their unmounted pieces were capable but of one direction: we were, however, not a little surprised, on perceiving that

that their balls followed our movements, so as to oblige us to quicken our pace in posting ourselves in front of the village, where we maintained the action, while the carabiniers and chaffeurs proceeded to turn their battery, and to carry it at the bayonet's point. The moment the drums beat to charge, the Mamelukes came forward to the attack of our carabiniers, who, after having received them with a discharge of musketry, by which they were repulsed, stormed and carried the battery, making a general massacre of all all those who served the guns. These guns were French; and were found on inspection to have belonged to the *Italie*, the commodore's bark of our flotilla. We were in hopes that after this important capture the battle would terminate, by the dispersion or flight of the army of Meccans: a part of this army, however, maintained its
ground

ground for a considerable time in a small grove of palm-trees; while the other part, which was still more numerous, made a kind of retreat, which we dared not harass, since, whenever we passed beyond the thickets and enclosed grounds to make a rapid movement, the Mamelukes, by whom we were constantly flanked, had it in their power to attack and drive us back. It was therefore necessary to march in order of battle, and with the troops formed to receive them. During six hours we had been unceasingly engaged with an enemy, undisciplined it is true, but brave, fanatic, and of tenfold our number, who attacked with fury and made an obstinate resistance, never retreating unless in a body, insomuch, that it became necessary to cut off in detail the detachments as they advanced. Worn out, and panting with the extreme heat, we

stopped

stopped a moment to take breath. We were utterly destitute of water, of which we never had stood so much in need. I recollect finding, in the heat of the action, a jug of water at the extremity of a wall, and that, not having time to drink, I poured the water on my bosom, to allay the burning heat by which I was tormented.

So long as our enemies kept possession of their batteries, they retreated confidently, having fresh supplies of men on whom to depend. We were then of opinion that it was their intention to bring us, by a feigned retreat, within the reach of these batteries. But when they had lost them, we considered that, as the small wood to which they had retreated was become their last and only point of defence, they would either try the chance of a decisive action, or would swim across the Nile, or, lastly, would join the
Mame-

Mamelukes, and disappear with them, which it was impossible for us to prevent. On drawing near to the wood, we perceived, however, that it contained a large village, with a fortress belonging to the Mamelukes, provided with bastions and battlements, the approach to which was rendered still more difficult, as the enemy were provided with arms and ammunition of every description, which we found to have belonged to us, both by the distance the balls were sent, and by the balls themselves. We were employed for upwards of two hours in attacking this fortress on every side, without being able to find any point from which the enemy did not assail us successfully. We had sixty men killed, and as many wounded. On the approach of night we set fire to the houses in the vicinity, took possession of a mosque, cut off the enemy's retreat by the Nile, and

endea-

endeavoured to mount afresh the guns we had recaptured. On their side, the besieged were employed in augmenting the number of their battlements, in constructing low batteries, and in pointing guns which they had not as yet brought into use. Several peasants, who had escaped both from the fire of the besiegers and from that of the besieged, found their way to us, and informed us, that on the day after the departure of General Desaix in pursuit of Murad-Bey, the Meccans, who had recently quitted the desert, attacked the Italie and the flotilla under her protection; and that, after a severe conflict of twenty hours, the crew of the commodore's bark had run her aground, and, from an apprehension of being boarded had set fire to her, and gone on board the small barks. That having been prevented by a gale of wind from keeping out to sea, and

being exhausted by the numbers and impetuosity of the assailants, the whole of these unfortunate men had been killed. They added, that since that time the Meccans had been employed in collecting all the means of attack and defence with which their conquest supplied them. That they had sunk one of our vessels, to force all those who should navigate the river to pass within reach of their battery; and had thus rendered themselves masters of the Nile. And, lastly, that, notwithstanding all the losses they had sustained in men, they were still very numerous and very resolute.

At day-break we began to batter the fortress with a view of making a breach: as it was, however, constructed of unbaked bricks, each bullet simply made a hole, without bringing down any part of the building. The flames at the same time made

no progress on account of the court-yards which separated the principal building from the circumvallation. At nine in the morning the Mamelukes advanced with their camels, as if with a view to throw succours into the place. A party was sent out against them, and they retreated after a slight resistance. General Beliard, perceiving that the result of the palliative means which had hitherto been employed had been a loss of time and of men, gave orders for an assault, which was given and received with unexampled valour. The first circumvallation was opened under the enemy's fire; and, notwithstanding the incessant discharges of musquetry of the besieged, by whom a fortie was made, combustible matters were introduced which annoyed them in their retreat. One of their magazines blew up, and the flames extended them-

selves in every direction. As they were without water, they extinguished the fire with their feet and hands, and even endeavoured to smother it by throwing themselves on it. They were seen, black and naked, running through the flames, and resembling so many devils in hell: I could not view them without an emotion of horror blended with admiration. Intervals of tranquillity succeeded, during which a solitary voice was heard, which was answered by sacred hymns and warlike shouts. They then rushed on us from all sides, notwithstanding the certainty of death.

Towards the close of the evening we stormed; and this operation was long and terrible. Twice we penetrated into the interior of the fortress, and twice we were driven from thence. I was not so much terrified by the losses we sustained, as by the reflection,

reflection, that we had fresh efforts to make against an enemy whom we could not intimidate. I knew besides, that we were reduced to our last box of cartridges. In the latter of these two attempts to storm, Captain Bulliot, an officer of distinguished bravery, but rash, heedless, and imprudent, perished. Having a foreboding of his approaching dissolution, he drew me towards him, squeezed my hand, and bade me a mournful adieu. A moment after, I saw him dragging himself along on his hands and feet, and endeavouring to snatch himself from the jaws of death.

When night drew on, hostilities were suspended. As we had been engaged during two days, it was necessary to take a little breath.

Painful duties succeeded to the dangers of the combat. We heard the cries of the

wounded, to whom we had no remedies to administer, and on whom we could not perform the most urgent operations for want of instruments. Our losses in men had been very considerable, and we had still many enemies to subdue. The necessity of sparing our gallant troops made us substitute to an attack by storm the expedient of setting fire to the enemy's buildings. For this purpose two fires were kindled; posts were stationed at all the avenues; and these posts were relieved from time to time to render the duty less severe. As our danger required an exactness of service and discipline, the troops reposed in battle array. Towards the middle of the night, an afs, followed by a she-afs, entered the quarters at full speed. In a moment every one was up and at his post, amid a silence and a good order as striking as the occasion was ridiculous.

An

An unfortunate coptic bishop, a prisoner in the fortress, made his escape, under shelter of the darkness of the night, with a few followers, and, having been exposed in his flight to the fire of our advanced posts, reached us, covered with wounds and contusions. After having taken some refreshments, he entered into a detail of the horrors from which he had just escaped. During the last twelve hours, the besieged had been without water; their walls were heated through; their swollen tongues choked up the passage of the air; and, in short, their situation was terrible. In reality, a few minutes after, and an hour before the break of day, thirty of the besieged who were the best armed, forced a passage through one of our advanced posts. At day-break our troops entered by the breaches the fire had made, and put to the sword those who, notwithstanding they

were half roasted alive, still offered a resistance. One of them, who appeared to be a chief, was brought to the general. He was in so swollen a state, that in endeavouring to stoop to seat himself, his skin cracked in every part. "If," said he, "I am brought hither to be killed, I beg that you will hasten to put me out of my misery." He was accompanied by a slave, who regarded his master with so deep an expression of grief, that I felt an esteem both for one and the other. The dangers by which this slave was surrounded could not draw aside for a moment his affectionate concern for his master. He lived for him alone: he viewed him; and could see no other object. What looks! how tender and how deep a melancholy! How good must he have been, who was thus cherished by his slave! However deplorable his lot, I could not help envying him who

was

was thus beloyed. Recurring to my own situation, I said to myself:—To satisfy an idle and vain curiosity, here I am, at the distance of a thousand leagues from France, furrounded by my valiant countrymen, among whom I seek a friend. Yesterday I was in the company of warriors, whose excellent qualities I esteemed, and whose transcendant bravery I admired: to-day I attend their funeral; and to-morrow I shall abandon their remains on the strange soil to which my ill fated steps have drawn me. It was but just now that a young man, replete with health and courage, braved the enemy, whom he was about to combat. I saw him attack where the danger was the most imminent: I saw him fall; and I heard the accents of grief which succeeded the expressions of his valorous impetuosity. He called in vain; and as he dragged himself along, the fire

commu-

communicated to the cartridges he had about him. His body and limbs were mutilated by the explosion; but still his voice was heard. I saw him expire; and to-morrow—to-morrow the post he held will console for his loss the companion by whom he is to be succeeded. O man! from what source do you draw your virtues, if such ignoble passions lurk in the most honourable of all professions? This is a cruel egotism which misfortune does not correct, and which becomes atrocious, seeing that danger forbids it to be concealed. In a state of warfare it is best appreciated, and its terrible effects more particularly felt. Let us direct our view, however, to the advantageous side of the profession.

On the morning of the 23d of March, General Beliard had the happiness to bestow a pardon on the prisoners he had made, and,
by

by dismissing them, to make them acquainted with our generosity, and with the difference of our customs from theirs. Several of them, impressed with gratitude, and with tears in their eyes, asked permission to follow us.

The Mamelukes again made their appearance. On our going out to meet them, we found that this was a false attack which they had contrived, to give them time to load their camels with water. As we had put an end to the siege, we pursued them to the desert, where we had an opportunity to see all their forces collected together. They consisted of a thousand horses, as many camels, and about two thousand foot. The rest of their army was made up of the Mec-cans, whom they had so perfidiously drawn into their quarrel, and whom they afterwards abandoned in so dastardly a way. We fancied

cied at first that they were about to penetrate into the desert: they, however, took up their station on the rising ground, regulating their movements by ours, and having in their rear horsemen, who apprized them by discharges of musketry of the halts we made, as well as of our advances. We felt more than ever of how little utility it was to pursue them when they would not fight, and how impossible it was to surprize them in a country where they had, on each side of the river, a retreat always open to them, and which would be secured to them so long as they should be superior in cavalry, and should be able to protect their camels. We therefore gave up an useless pursuit, and very wisely returned to secure and protect our barks. The remainder of the day was spent by the general in collecting together and putting on board the guns, ammunition, and

warlike implements which we had recap-
tured.

It is not until the paroxysm is past that the sick man finds the fever to have exhausted his strength. While the enemy had fired on us with our own powder and balls, we had not calculated how much of these articles it was necessary to expend, to exhaust or recover what had been taken from us. But, now that we were more tranquil, we reckoned an hundred and fifty men in killed and wounded, that is to say, that we had gambled in a lottery in which every seventh ticket was a blank; and we found that, having been at the expence of supplying both sides with ammunition, we had scarcely enough left to venture on a combat. Lastly, we considered that the ammunition which was to supply our consumption had been destroyed, together with all those by whom

it was guarded ; and that we were an hundred and fifty leagues from Cairo, where our necessities were altogether unknown. During a conflict of three days and two nights, I could not sufficiently admire the coolness and intrepidity of General Beliard ; and I was not less edified by his intelligence in the administration of affairs during the interval which followed this conflict, less brilliant in its nature than it was perilous. The slightest misconduct would have put the finishing stroke to the misfortune of the loss of our fleet, a disaster which his prudent intelligence could not repair, but the worst consequences of which it had at least the effect of averting.

While the fate of such of the inhabitants of Benhut as had remained quietly there was under discussion, as well as that of those who had fled, I was not a little surprised at finding,

ing, at the posts we occupied in the village, several women in the company of our soldiers, whose ease and gaiety I considered as an illusion. I could not persuade myself but that they were familiar with our language. Each of them had made her choice freely, and they all appeared perfectly well satisfied. Some of them were very pretty; and it was so novel a thing to be fed, attended, and well treated by their conquerors, that I am of opinion they would willingly have followed the army. *To belong* is so entirely their destiny, that nothing but a sense of obedience could have induced them afterwards to return under the domination of their fathers and husbands. In such a strange predicament, they are not received with that scrupulously inexorable jealousy which characterizes the orientals. "It was owing to the war," say "they; we were unable to defend them.

" They

“ They have submitted to the law of the
“ vanquishers, and are not more tarnished on
“ that account, than we are dishonoured by
“ the wounds we have received.” In this
way they again enter the harem; and there
is never any altercation about what has
passed. By such nice distinctions as these
jealousy is refined, and becomes a noble pas-
sion, of which man may even boast.

- We were informed that the sheik who
commanded, or who rather exhorted the
Meccans, had made his escape towards the
close of the preceding night; and that during
the siege he had prayed without fighting,
quitting his retreat from time to time, and
saying to his followers: “ I pray heaven for
“ you; it is your duty to fight for the divi-
“ nity.” It was after these exhortations that
we heard the pious hymns, which were fol-
lowed by warlike shouts, fortics, and general
discharges of musketry.

On the 11th of April we marched towards Keneh, to ascertain whether there were any Meccans in that quarter, and what was become of General Defaix. Our progress was interrupted by those particular winds, which, notwithstanding the sky is clear and unclouded, fill the air with so much sand, that it is neither day nor night. Our barks not being able to proceed, we were obliged to stop within a quarter of a league of that fatal Benhute, the recollection of which was so distressing to us. At nine in the morning of the following day we reached Keneh, where we found letters from General Defaix, who was ignorant of our situation, and of the loss of our fleet. The city had been freed from our enemies, and the inhabitants came out to meet us.

Keneh has succeeded Kous, as Kous had succeeded Coptos. Its situation has this ad-

vantage, that it is immediately at the entrance of the desert, and on the bank of the Nile. It has never been so flourishing as the above-mentioned cities, because its existence is dated after the commerce of India had been diverted, and in a manner annihilated, either by the discovery of the route to India by the Cape of Good Hope, or by the tyranny of the government of Egypt. Its commerce being confined to the passage of the pilgrims, was very inconsiderable, unless at the time when the great caravan was on its route. It is here that the pilgrims of the oasis in Lybia, together with those of Upper Egypt, and a few Nubians, take in their supplies, providing not only what is necessary for the passage across the desert to Coffeir, but also for the journey to Gidda, Medina, and Mecca, as well as for their return from thence. They are under the necessity of doing this, because,

the

the above cities being situated on a flinty desert, the inhabitants have no other resource except the gold they amass,* inso-much that if, thanks to fanaticism, Mecca has continued to be a point of contact between India, Africa, and Europe, it has likewise become an abyss, in which a population of an hundred and twenty thousand souls absorbs the gold of India, of Asia Minor, and of every part of Africa.

Our movements towards Syria, and our war with Egypt, having ruined the caravan of 1798, and broken up, for the following year, all those of Europe and of Africa, at the same time that the Indians could find nothing to barter for the commodities they had been at the pains of bringing to Mecca,

* At Mecca the pound of bread costs from eight to ten sous, (from four to five pence) which is an enormous price in the east.

the commerce of that city, which had been falling off for a considerable time, must have sustained during those two years an almost irreparable loss. In certain cases, when the spring of an old machine breaks, the machine itself tumbles in pieces. It is therefore not surprising, that when interest was blended with fanaticism, the crusade of Mecca should have been got ready with so much celerity, and should have opposed to us all the fury which the most violent passions can kindle.

General Beliard would have pursued the terrified Mamelukes and the vanquished Meccans, but could not take the field without ammunition, of which we were entirely destitute. We were under the necessity, during our stay at Kenh, of fortifying the house in which we lodged, and which became the head-quarters. We could learn
nothing

nothing of any of our detachments, not even of General Defaix; and the country was covered by enemies, dispersed in every direction, who either fell in with and murdered our emissaries, or prevented them from pursuing their way, keeping us in an isolated state, so as to excite no small apprehensions. The indefatigable Defaix had, in the mean time, pursued the Mamelukes to Siut, had forced Murad-Bey to seek shelter in the oasis, and had detached General Friand to the right bank of the Nile, to preserve a line parallel to his own, and to pursue Elfi-Bey and the dispersed bodies of Mamelukes. After these operations, he paid us a visit at Kench, and afforded us the means of again taking the field.

We proceeded towards Kous, where the Meccans had posted themselves, and from whence they made incursions into the vil-

lages on both sides the river, plundering and putting to death both Copts and Christians, and carrying off others to oblige them to pay a ransom. We quitted Kench during the night, with an intention to surprize them, and, with a view of deceiving their advanced posts, marched along the desert. When we reached the village where they had been encamped, they were no longer to be found, having set out from thence at the same time that we had left Kench. They had taken the desert with the Mamelukes, and had repaired to the Kittah.

To take the desert in Upper Egypt is, in the soldier's phrase, not only to quit the cultivated grounds, and proceed to the sands, by which they are bounded to the right and left, but also to penetrate into the straits which cross the two chains, hence these become positions, and, in a manner, posts which

which it is of importance to occupy and defend. The Mamelukes had the advantage of us, in consequence of being acquainted with all these positions, and of knowing the number of fountains which might there be met with. In the valley which leads from Coffeir to the Nile, there are four of these fountains; one at the distance of half a day's journey from Coffeir. the water of which is fit for camels only; the second, at the distance of a day's journey and a half from the preceding one; and next to that of the Kit-tah, at the same distance with the second. The latter is of great importance when the desert is to be occupied, since it is situated at a point where three roads branch out. The first of these roads, which runs to the south-west, leads to Redifi, where it terminates. The second, which runs almost due west, terminates at Nagadi; and the third,

which takes a north-west direction, leads to Birambar, where the fourth fountain is situated. From Birambar three roads of the same length lead to Kous, to Keft or Coptos, and to Kench.

General Desaix conceived the plan of blocking up the Mamelukes in the desert, or at least of cutting off their communication with the Nile, and of impeding their movements, preventing them from separating their forces without a risk of being cut off, and reducing them at length by famine. After having left three hundred men and several field-pieces at Kench, he took up his position at Birambar, with several corps of infantry, cavalry, and artillery. On our side we were sent, after having been reinforced by the twenty-first brigade of light-infantry, to occupy the passage of Nagadi. Redisi was imprudently neglected; or, rather, apprehensions

sions were entertained that the troops might be too much dispersed. If the strait of Redifi could have been occupied, all the Beys on the right bank of the river would have been forced to surrender; Murad-Bey would have been the only one we should have had to pursue, and no further diversions could have been dreaded.

The hopes of seeing Thebes, in the direction of which we were to march, made me joyfully turn my back once more on Cairo. It was my destiny to attach myself to those who were to proceed the greatest distance up the country; and I accordingly followed General Beliard. I was soon after to join once more General Desaix; and on the evening before we parted we formed a thousand projects for the future. Our adieus were, however, of a melancholy cast; and on this occasion our separation was to me more distressing

distressing than ever. Could I imagine that, young as he was, it would fall to his lot to leave me in the career I had to run, and that I should remain to regret his loss? We separated, and I have never seen him since. Our detachment had proceeded a league, when the brave Latournerie galloped up to me: he came back to bid me adieu. We had a great affection for each other; and, moved as I was by this mark of his tenderness, I was, notwithstanding, struck by his emotion. We did not embrace each other without shedding a few tears. The profession of arms may harden those whose temperament is cold and frigid; but its horrors do not weaken the sensibility of tender souls. Connections formed amid the hardships and dangers of an expedition such as that of Egypt become unchangeable. The parties enter into a bond of fellowship; and when

this union is cemented still more by a conformity of character, fate cannot destroy it without embittering the remainder of life.

CHAPTER XVI.

Ruins of Kous and in the Neighbourhood—Arrival at Nagadi—Wretched State of the Inhabitants—Dispersion and Massacre of the Meccans—Skirmish with the Mamelukes—Return of the Beys to the Desert—Arrival of the Army at Thebes—Temple at Karnak—Temple at Luxor—Pass through Salamieh and Esneh—Ancient Temple at contra Latopolis—Arrival at Chenubis, Ruins there—Temple at Apollinopolis.

IN passing through Kous, which I had not entered when I descended the Nile, I found in the middle of the square the summit of a large and well-proportioned gate, sunk into the ground to the cornice. This single fragment, which must have belonged

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to a great edifice, proves that Kous was built on the site of Apollinopolis parva. (See Plate IV. Fig. 2.) The bulk and magnitude of this ruin present a contrast with all the objects that surround it, which speaks more to the purpose on the subject of Egyptian architecture than would twenty pages of encomium or dissertation. This fragment alone appears larger than all the rest of the city.

In the village of Elmecieh, distant half a league from Kous, I found the bases of several edifices of Egyptian free-stone, on which were hieroglyphics. I was in doubt whether these edifices had belonged to a small city, which tradition has not handed down to us, or whether they anciently constituted an isolated temple. Their ruins were too much degraded to enable me to give any idea of them by a drawing, or to make a plan of
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any of the parts. On proceeding half a league further, I saw more distinctly, on a small eminence, the base of a temple absolutely remote from any other ruins whatever. I could perceive three layers of large stones, which had formed a kind of pedestal extending to the pavement of the temple, in the front of which was a portico of six columns connected at the lower extremity of their shafts. Quitting this monument, we arrived, after an hour's march, at Nagadi, a large and dull village, situated at the entrance of the desert. It had been plundered by a party of Mamelukes about twelve hours before. Previously to entering the desert, we sent off scouting parties, who took several camels, and killed thirty Meccans, stragglers. We proceeded to an enclosure, which had in the first instance been an entrenched convent, inhabited by Copts, which

had

had afterwards become a mosque, and had been latterly employed as a burial ground. After having taken up our lodging within this enclosure, we employed ourselves in driving away the bats, and in throwing down the tomb-stones. A fortress, a desert, and tombs! We were surrounded by the most dismal objects in the world; and if, with a view to banish the melancholy impression with which these scenes had inspired us, we occasionally went out at night to breathe for a few moments a purer air, our respiration was the only sound that disturbed the tranquillity of the void by which we were terrified. The wind, fleeting over this vast horizon without meeting with any other objects than ourselves, brought to our remembrance, in its silent motion, and amid the darkness of the night, the immense and dismal vacuity by which we were surrounded.

A few merchants, who had had the good fortune to save their packets from the grasp of the Mamelukes, were not without their apprehensions relative to us. Having been denounced by the sheiks of Nagadi, they brought us presents, and were still more terrified by our refusal to accept them. Being accustomed to the sight of persons covered with gold, by whom they were laid under contribution, and seeing us pretty nearly in the garb of a banditti of robbers, they fancied that we were going to plunder them. It was at the same time impossible for them to conceal their riches. Our portmanteaus having been captured on board the flotilla, we were in want of linen, and requested them to open their bales. Every hope on their side was now vanished. We made choice of what would suit us, and asked them the price of the quantity of each

each article we should need. They replied, that they left this entirely to ourselves ; but on our persisting to know the lowest price, which we paid them as soon as they had satisfied us, they were so surprized, that they felt their money, to be certain that what had passed was not a dream. Armed men, with the power in their hands, who paid !—they might have passed through every part of Asia and of Africa, without meeting with any thing so extraordinary. From that moment we acquired their full esteem and confidence. They came to prepare our breakfast, brought us Indian and Arabian sweetmeats, and cocoa-nuts, and made us the best coffee it was possible to drink. This combination of wretchedness and luxury, this motley state in which we lived, was not destitute of its share of interest. There is no situation in the world which cannot boast its enjoy-

ments; and for this truth I appeal to the tombs of Nagadi.

Nagadi is a point which it is important to occupy; and must naturally become the most frequented route of the desert, since it is the shortest by one day. A messenger who sets out from Coffeir may reach Nagadi in two days by the help of a dromedary, and in three days on foot. As nothing is to be found at Coffeir, the merchant who lands there, in returning from Gidda is very anxious to reach the bank of the Nile; and the most expeditious means appearing to him to be the best, he sends to Nagadi to procure camels, which may reach him on the sixth day. When we were there, the price was a dollar for the conveyance of an hundred weight of merchandize, each camel carrying four hundreds:—a price which varies according to the more or less flourish-
ing

ing state of commerce, as does also that of the camels, which would at that time bring twenty dollars only, instead of sixty which they cost before our arrival in Egypt. This may give an idea of the distressed state of affairs, and how much Mecca, Medina, and Gidda, must have suffered from the disturbances in that country. We who boasted that we were more just than the Mamelukes, committed daily and almost necessarily a great number of iniquitous acts. The difficulty of distinguishing our enemies by their exterior form and colour, was the cause of our continually putting to death innocent peasants. The soldiers who were sent out on scouting parties, frequently mistook for Meccans the poor merchants belonging to a caravan, with whom they fell in; and before justice could be done them, which in some cases the time and circumstances would not

allow, two or three of them had been shot, a part of their merchandize either plundered or pilfered, and their camels exchanged for ours which had been wounded. The gains which resulted from these outrages, fell invariably to the share of the bloodsuckers of the army, the civil commissaries, Copts, and interpreters; the soldiers, who sought every opportunity to enrich themselves, being constantly obliged to abandon and forget their projects, by the drum beating to arms, or the trumpet sounding to horse. The situation of the inhabitants, for whose happiness and prosperity we were no doubt come to Egypt, was no better. If, through terror, they had been obliged to quit their houses on our approach, on their return, after we were withdrawn, they could find nothing but the mud of which the walls were formed: Utenfils, ploughs, doors, roofs, every thing
in

in short, of a combustible nature, had been burned for cooking; and the earthen pots broken, the corn consumed, and the fowls and pigeons roasted and devoured. Nothing was to be found except the bodies of their dogs, killed in endeavouring to defend the property of their masters. If we made any stay in a village, the unfortunate inhabitants who had fled on our approach, were summoned to return, under penalty of being treated as rebels who had joined the enemy, and of being made to pay double contributions. When they submitted to these threats, and came to pay the miri, it sometimes happened that they were so numerous as to be mistaken for a body of men in arms, and their clubs considered as muskets, in which case they were sure of being assailed by several discharges from the riflemen and patrols, before an explanation could take

place. Those who were killed were interred ; and the survivors remained friends with us, until a proper opportunity presented itself for retaliation. It is true that, provided they did not quit their dwellings, but paid the *miri*, and supplied the wants of the army, they not only spared themselves the trouble of a journey, and avoided the unpleasant abode of the desert, but saw their provisions eaten with regularity, and might come in for their portion of them, preserving a part of their doors, selling their eggs to the soldiers, and having few of their wives and daughters ravished. In this case, however, the attachment they had shown us was considered as culpable, inasmuch that when the Mamelukes came after us, they did not leave them a crown picce, a horse, or a camel ; and frequently the sheik of the village forfeited his life for the pretended partiality which

which was imputed to him. It was very necessary for these poor wretches that such a state of things should terminate, and a new one be established: but how could this be done while the Mamelukes refused to fight us, and while fanatic and half-starved bands, such as those of the Meccans, resorted to their standard?

On the third day after our arrival at Nagadi, we learned that three hundred Meccans had come to a resolution to penetrate, by carefully avoiding our troops, across the desert to Cairo, and there disperse themselves among the immense population of that city, until they should be enabled to return to their native country by the caravans, or until an opportunity should present itself of revenging themselves on us. We were told that their chief, when dying, had recommended to them to take this step, and

had advised them to avoid us in the field, but that the emir's nephew, who had succeeded him in the command, being desirous to preserve his authority over them, and to possess himself of the remains of the plunder which the capture of the French barks had afforded, had persuaded them that the treasures which had been found on board these barks were still in the fortress of Benhoute, and that as soon as our troops should be withdrawn to a sufficient distance from thence, he would conduct them thither to recapture these treasures. In the mean time, as it was necessary to obtain subsistence, he divided them into small bands, and sent them out to plunder the villages. In these predatory excursions they were more or less successful, and of course the peasants, to whom they were a great annoyance, traced their steps, and hunted them like so many wolves.

wolves. When they were fallen in with by our patroles, they were collected together, and shot and destroyed like animals obnoxious to society. They were thus taught that Mahomet did not approve their crusade, and that it had not been commanded by the Deity. Such is the subject of the engraving, Plate XXXVI. in which will be found a representation of the catholic peasants bringing them in during the night to the tombs where we had taken up our quarters.

On the second of April, General Defaix sent for three hundred men belonging to our half brigade, and for fifty of our cavalry, to do duty at Birambar, where they were to relieve the troops he was about to detach from thence, and with which he was to proceed to strengthen the post of Kench. On the same day we learned by our spies that the Mamelukes and Meccans had quit-
ted

ted the Kittah, and that it appeared by the route they had taken to be their intention to pass out of the desert, in a northern direction, at Keneh or at Samata. The best dispositions were made on that side, either to oblige them to keep within the boundaries of the desert, or to surprise them on their attempting to quit it. These measures were, however, frustrated by the ardour of our soldiers, and by the confidence of their officers. The scouting party belonging to the detachment with which General Defaix was proceeding to Keneh, fell in with the rear-guard of the Mamelukes, and charged. The corps of cavalry endeavoured to support the scouts, but having imprudently left the infantry too much in the rear to be itself supported, was in a few minutes charged by the Mamelukes, who closed on our horsemen sabre in hand. Two chiefs of battalion,

who had thus imprudently rushed on, lost their lives, as did also twenty dragoons. The artillery would have been a great resource, but was too far advanced. The Mamelukes, who dreaded its being called back, pursued their way, perfectly well pleased at having escaped the ambush we had laid for them, as well as because they had saved their camp-equipage, and had proved to our horsemen that they manœuvred quicker, and understood the use of the back-sword better than they did. Two hundred infantry and a single field-piece would have converted this skirmish into a victory of great importance to us, at a moment when the beys and kiachefs, dispersed and deserted by a part of their Mamelukes, were greatly distressed. A heedless confidence, ~~however~~, and a want of unity in the march, produced a want of combination in the attack; and Desaix's orders

orders being either misinterpreted or received too late, cost several brave officers their lives. Dupleffis, a chief of brigade, an officer of distinguished talents, who had commanded in India, where he had rendered important services to his country, but who laboured under the odium of not having signalized himself during the war of the revolution, seized with avidity the present opportunity, the first which had presented itself to display his prowess. Forgetful of the orders he had received not to quit the impregnable position which he occupied on a height, he darted forward, without waiting for his men to come up, and penetrated into the midst of the enemy's ranks: then selecting the most conspicuous of his foes, he galloped up to him. It was Osman, the most valiant of the beys: the two horses encountered, and the one on which Dupleffis was mounted recovered

recovered from the shock. He threw himself up on his saddle, took Osman round the body, and strangled him in his arms. During this conflict, which was worthy of the times of ancient chivalry, the unfortunate Dupleffis, who was not supported, was surrounded, and pierced by a lance. He fell on the body of his adversary, whom he still held in his grasp. A kiachef, who was both a spectator and an actor in this combat, spoke to me with enthusiasm of the intrepidity of our officer.

Notwithstanding it had been imprudently combined, the battle of Birambar was productive of consequences which nearly brought about the dissolution of the remainder of the coalition of the beys. By our spies who visited the field of battle, we learned, that on the inspection of four dead bodies, it appeared ~~that~~ two of the deceased had worn beards,
and

and were consequently kiachefs at least, the common Mamelukes being shaved, and not being permitted either to marry, or to allow the beard to grow, until certain dignities have been bestowed on them, in consequence of which they become freed men. We were afterwards informed that one of these was Mustapha Kiachef Aboudiabe, that is to say, father of the beard, each of the beys and kiachefs having a fighting name, which is either an honourable title or a nick-name, and which, as it is changed according to the circumstances, becomes alternately glorious or ridiculous. We were also told that Affan-Bey had received a gun-shot wound in the neck, and a sabre wound in the arm; and that Osman-Bey had lost nearly all his fingers. It was added, that twelve of the bravest of his Mamelukes had fallen; and, what was of still greater importance, that notwithstanding

standing the beys had had the advantage in this action, the dread of meeting with the infantry on their way, and of losing their baggage, had induced them to turn back, and to seek shelter once more in the desert. We learned from the persons whom we had sent to the Kittah, that they had returned thither to procure water, and had taken the road which leads to Redisi, directing their course towards Upper Egypt. I must confess, that the military arrangements which were to bring me to the vicinity of Thebes, and to the right bank of the Nile, appeared to me to be the best; and accordingly I fancy I was the only one who was pleased at the order we received to go in pursuit of them, and to drive them beyond Redisi. We set out from Nagadi, proceeding in front of the mountains, at the back of which the Mamelukes were on their march; and we learned
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by several of their followers, who had quitted them at the Kittah, that they were in a most deplorable condition, and would all of them perish, provided they could not reach Redifi within three days.

Towards noon we reached the territory of Thebes; and at the distance of three quarters of a league from the Nile, saw the ruins of a large temple, which has not been noticed by any traveller, and which may give an idea of the immensity of that city, since, if we suppose that it was the last edifice on the eastern side, it is more than two leagues and an half distant from Medinet-Abu, where the most western temple is situated. This was the third time of my passing through Thebes; but, as if fate had willed that I should invariably take but a hasty view of what interested me so strongly, my operations were confined on this occasion also to

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an endeavour to account for what I saw, and to a few notes relative to what I might delineate on my return, provided I should then be more fortunate. I tried to ascertain whether at Thebes the arts had had an epoch and a chronology. If a palace once existed in Egypt, the ruins of it were to be sought at Thebes, which had been the capital; and if there were in reality epochs in the arts, the result of the first essays and rudiments must also have been in that city, luxury and magnificence having departed progressively from this point of simplicity, merely through the opulence and superfluity by which they were accompanied. At length we arrived at Karnac, a village built on a small part of the site of a single temple, the circumference of which would, as has been somewhere noticed, require half an hour to walk round. Herodotus, by whom it was not visited, has,

notwithstanding, given a correct idea of its grandeur and magnificence. Diodorus and Strabo, who examined it in its ruinous state, appear to have given the description of its present condition; and all the travellers by whom they have been copied, have mistaken a great extent of masses for the measure of beauty, and, having allowed themselves rather to be taken by surprise than charmed, on an inspection of the largest ruin in the world, have not dared to prefer to this temple that of Apollinopolis at Etfu, that of Tentyra, and the simple portico at Efneh. It is probable that the temples of Karnac and Luxor were built in the time of Sesostris, when the flourishing condition of the Egyptians gave birth to the arts among them, and when these arts were perhaps displayed to the world for the first time. The vanity of erecting colossal edifices, was the first consideration

tion of opulence; and it was not as yet known, that a perfection in the arts bestows on their productions a grandeur which is independent of their magnitudes. It has, in after ages, been ascertained, that the small rotunda of Vicenza is a finer edifice than St. Peter's at Rome; and that the school of surgery in Paris is, in point of style, as grand as the pantheon in the above-mentioned city. In short, a cameo may be preferable to a colossal statue. It is therefore the sumptuousness alone of the Egyptians which is to be seen at Karnac, where not only quarries, but mountains are piled together, and hewn out into massive proportions, the traits of which are as feebly executed, as the parts are clumsily connected; and these masses are loaded with uncouth bas-reliefs, and tasteless hieroglyphics, by which the art of sculpture is disgraced. The only objects there which

are sublime, both with regard to their dimensions, and the skill which their workmanship displays, are the obelisks, and a few of the ornaments of the outer gates, the style of which is admirably chaste. If in the other parts of this edifice the Egyptians appear to us to be giants, in these latter productions they are geniuses. I am accordingly persuaded that these sublime embellishments were posteriorly added to the colossal monuments of Karnac. It must however be granted, that the plan of the temple is noble and grand. The art of contriving beautiful plans, has, in architecture, invariably preceded that of the fine execution of the details, and has constantly survived for several centuries the corruption of the latter, as is proved by a comparison of the monuments of Thebes, with those of Esneh and Tentyra, as well as by that of the edifices of the reign
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of Dioclesian with those of the time of Augustus.

To the known descriptions of this great edifice of Karnac should be added, that it was but a temple, and could be nothing else. All that exists at present in a somewhat entire state relates to a very small sanctuary, and had been disposed in this way to inspire a due degree of veneration, and to become a kind of tabernacle. On examining the *ensemble* of these ruins the imagination is wearied with the idea of describing them. Of the hundred columns of the portico alone of this temple, the smallest are seven feet and an half in diameter, and the largest twelve. The space occupied by its circumvallation contains lakes and mountains. In short, to be enabled to form a competent idea of so much magnificence, it is necessary that the reader should fancy what is be-

fore him to be a dream, as he who views the objects themselves rubs his eyes to know whether he is awake. With respect to the present state of this edifice, it is, however, necessary at the same time to observe, that a great part of the effect is lost by its very degraded state. The sphinxes have been wantonly mutilated, with a few exceptions, which barbarism, wearied with destroying, has spared, and on examining which it is easy to distinguish that some of them had a woman's head, others that of a lion, a ram, a bull, &c. The avenue which leads from Karnac to Luxor was of this latter description; and this space, which is nearly half a league in extent, contains a constant succession of these chimerical figures to the right and left, together with fragments of stone walls, of small columns, and of statues. This point lying in the centre of the city,

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the part which was the most advantageously placed, there is reason to suppose that the palace of the grandeos or kings was situated there. If, however, several traces which render this presumable can be distinguished, the fact is not proved by any extraordinary magnificence.

Luxor, the finest village in these environs, is also built on the site of the ruins of a temple, not so large as that of Karnac, but in a better state of preservation, the masses not having as yet fallen through time, and by the pressure of their own weight. The most colossal parts consist of fourteen columns of nearly eleven feet in diameter, and of two statues in granite, at the outer gate, buried up to the middle of the arms, and having in front of them the two largest and best preserved obelisks known. It is, without doubt, flattering to the pomp of

Thebes, that the richest and most powerful republic in the world should deem its means insufficient, not to hew out, but merely to transport these two monuments, which are no more than a fragment of one of the numerous edifices of that astonishing city.

A peculiarity belonging to the temple of Luxor, is, that a quay, provided with an epaulment, secured the eastern part, which was near the river, from the damages the inundations might otherwise have occasioned. The epaulment, which since its original structure has been repaired and augmented in brick work, proves that the river has not changed its bed; and its preservation is an evidence that the Nile has never been banked by other quays, since no traces of similar constructions are elsewhere to be met with. (See Plates XXIV. XXII. and XXV. from drawings which I afterwards made.)

Notwith-

Notwithstanding the excessive heat of the sun at mid-day, I made a drawing of the gate of the temple, which is now become that of the village of Luxor. Nothing can be more grand, and at the same time more simple, than the small number of objects of which this entrance is composed. No city whatever makes so proud a display at its approach as this wretched village, the population of which consists of two or three thousand souls, who have taken up their abodes on the roofs and beneath the galleries of this temple, which has, nevertheless, the air of being in a manner uninhabited. (See Plate XXV.)

While I was busied in making my drawings, our cavalry was engaged with a small party of straggling Mamelukes, two of whom were killed. The others escaped by swimming across the river, leaving behind them
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their arms, horses, and accoutrements, which fell into our hands.

We set out at two o'clock, and reached Salamich at the expiration of thirteen hours, as if this space of time had been a regulation for our day's march, on all the occasions when we were to pass through Thebes. On the following day we again entered the desert, and arrived before Esneh pretty early. When setting out the day after, we found a small temple in a very ruinous state, but notwithstanding, very picturesque and singular in its plan, as well as in several of its parts. It consists of a portico with four columns in front, two pilasters, and two columns in the depth, with a sanctuary in the middle, and two lateral apartments, one of which, on the right hand, is scarcely to be traced. Within the portico is a door cut out of the lateral wall to the right, which must have been the

the entrance of a small sanctuary in which the offerings were made. Another singularity in the elevation of this edifice is, that the capitals of the two columns in the middle of the portico are in relief at their summit, while those of the columns at each extremity are guttered. This building is in a more ruinous state than any other I have seen in Egypt; and the decay has undoubtedly arisen from the nature of the free-stone with which it was built. The parts which have been added are in a better preservation than in the other temples, a circumstance which is to be ascribed to the superior quality of the bricks that were employed. The circumvallation of the temple, within which were contained the lodgings of the priests, may be pretty distinctly made out; and the whole of this enclosure is somewhat elevated above the very small city of Contra-Latopolis,

Latopolis, which was built round the compass of this monument. It would appear to have been the practice that all the great cities on the bank of the Nile, should have a small city or port on the opposite bank, which was probably placed there for the convenience of commerce. It was scarcely day-break when the troops were marched off; and I regretted that I had not a better opportunity to study the details of the plan of this temple, and of the buildings which had been posteriorly added.

We proceeded in the direction of the mountains. In this latitude the part of Egypt which lies to the right is so narrow, that the chain extends, in two instances, to the Nile, infomuch that our artillery was conveyed over with difficulty, and the greater part of the day lost. On the other side of these passages the rocks become of a different nature:

nature : we found several quarries of freestone, which no doubt supplied materials for the city and temples of Chenubis, where we arrived an hour after. Within a quarter of a league of this city are two tombs hewn out of the rock, and a small sanctuary surrounded by a gallery, and having a portico in front. This monument is isolated, and is situated in the same way as the catholic chapels which are to be met with in Europe. I next proceeded to view the temple or temples of Chenubis, the ruins of which, as well as those of the city itself, are in so disjointed a state, and so varied in their proportions, that it is very difficult to form any correct idea of their plan. The most considerable and most elevated parts consist of six columns, the capitals of three of which belly out, while those of the three others, which are parallel to them, are guttered, and
united

united by an entablature, as far as I could distinguish in passing in a bark. On a nearer view I could perceive, that they had not been built at the same time, and that those which have guttered capitals have never been finished, and were added as a gallery to the others. In the front of this fragment of ruins, to the south, are the bases of a portico, which also appears not to have been finished: and, in the same direction, is a block of granite which seems to have belonged to a colossal statue. In an eastern direction I met with a basin of water, the circumference of which is lined and decorated by a gallery formed of columns. In the western part of the city the gate of a sanctuary presents itself, together with two very minute fragments, of the nature of which I could not satisfy myself. In the front is a lining in the form of a quay on the Nile. Among these architec-

tural ruins are several ruins of sculpture, among others a group of two figures coupled together, three feet in height, the heads of which have been broken off. What is most noticeable at Chenubis is an enclosure, the walls of which are built of unbaked bricks, and are of a conical shape, having at their base a thickness of upwards of twenty-seven feet. This extraordinary work, of which history makes no mention, is in many parts in an entire state. I apprehended at first sight, that it was of Arabic construction; but as there are no ruins or traces of Arabic edifices on the site of Chenubis, it is presumable that it is a work of high antiquity, and in this case there is no occasion to construct fortifications of any other description in Egypt, with the exceptions of the jambs and embrasures, together with such other parts as are exposed to friction. In this instance all
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the great masses have completely resisted the ravages of time, and may still be employed in any defensive measures.

I was obliged to quit this spot precipitately, cursing the war, the soldiery, and the importance of their operations, which invariably forced me to abandon the most interesting objects, to set out on the ineffectual pursuit of an enemy, who made more progress in one day than we did in three, and to whom we had left all the passages open. At day-break we were on foot, and at night at no greater distance than three-quarters of a league off Chenubis ; it was for such a purpose that this vain speed had been so imperiously commanded. On the following day, after having marched during an hour, we found lying on the ground the remains of two temples, the plans of which could not be traced. These ruins seemed to be deposited

sited there merely to point out the site of the city of Juno Lucina, which the infallible d'Anville has laid down in this latitude.

We at length reached by the desert the pass of Redifi, which is a fourth opening from the Kittah. It has never been frequented by the merchants, and was fatal to the Mamelukes, almost the whole of whom, by taking this road, lost their horses, together with a part of their camels, a considerable number of their attendants, and twenty-six women, out of twenty-eight, whom the beys had taken with them. Their march was traced by their disasters, and by what they left behind them, tents, arms, clothing, the carcasses of horses starved to death, camels which were no longer able to support their burden, attendants, and their women, whom they abandoned to their fate. I figured to myself the sufferings of a poor

VOL. II. S wretch,

wretch, panting with fatigue, and expiring with thirst, his tongue parched, and breathing with difficulty the hot air by which he is consumed. He hopes that a few minutes repose will enable him to recover his strength: he stops, and sees his companions pass by, calling on them in vain for help. The misery to which each one is a prey, has banished every compassionate feeling: they proceed on their way without casting a look on him, and follow in silence the footsteps of those who precede them. They are no longer in his view: they are fled, and his benumbed limbs, already overpowered by their painful existence, refuse their office, and cannot be stimulated to action either by danger or by terror. The caravan has passed: it appears to him like an undulating line in the wide expanse, and, becoming at length a mere point, disappears altogether like the

last

last glimmer of an expiring taper. He casts around him his wild and frantic looks, but can see nothing: he turns them towards himself, and then closes his eyes to shun the aspect of the terrible vacuity by which he is surrounded. He hears nothing but his own sighs, and fate hovers over him to cut the final thread of his existence. Alone, and without a companion to do him the last offices, he is about to expire without one single ray of hope to administer comfort to his departing soul; and his corpse, consumed by the parched and burning soil, will soon become a bleached skeleton, which will serve as a guide to the uncertain steps of the traveller who shall dare to brave the fate that has befallen him.

Such is the picture which the traces of the passage of the Mamelukes presented to us; and it was by such terrible spectacles as

the above that we ascertained the direction of their march. They had passed three days before, and had proceeded up the country towards the cataracts, to repose themselves in an island between Baban and Ombos. I have already spoken of the fertility of this island, in giving the particulars of my route to Syene. As the distressed state in which they were, banished from us all uneasiness as to their intentions, we gave up every further pursuit in a country where we could not expect to find any resources, which the Mamelukes who preceded us must have entirely exhausted.

We encamped, or, to speak more correctly, halted near the river, where we took up our residence among tombs, and in the vicinity of two withered shrubs of acacia, the only indications we could find that the spot had been once inhabited, and that vegetation

getation had not altogether ceased. All those who could be spared were ordered to proceed to Etfu; and I accompanied this party, in the hope of viewing at my leisure the sublime temple of Apollinopolis, the most beautiful of all Egypt, and, next to those of Thebes, the largest. Being built at a period when the arts and sciences had acquired all their splendour, the workmanship of every part is equally beautiful, the hieroglyphics are admirably executed, the figures more varied, and the architecture of a higher order than in the Theban edifices, the building of which must be referred to an earlier age. My first care was to take a general plan of the building. (See Plate XXIX. Fig. 11.)

Nothing can be more simply beautiful than these outlines, nothing more picturesque than the effect produced in the elevation, by the various dimensions belonging to each

member of the harmonious whole. This superb edifice is seated on a rising ground, so as to overlook not only its immediate vicinity, but the whole valley, (See Plate XXVIII.) and at the foot of this greater temple, but on a considerably lower level, is a smaller one, at present almost buried: the only part still visible is in a hollow surrounded with rubbish, where may be seen a little portico of two columns, and as many pilasters, a peristyle, and the sanctuary of the temple inclosed within a pilastered gallery. A single column, with its capital rising from the ruins, to the height of forty feet above the portico, and the angle of a wall a hundred feet beyond, shew that there formerly existed a court in front of the temple. It is remarkable of this monument, notwithstanding the skill displayed in its construction, that the gates are not exactly in the middle of the sides. It
seems

seems to have been dedicated to the evil ge-
nius, for the figure of Typhon is seen in relief
on the four sides of the plinth, which sur-
mounts each of the capitals. (See Plate
XXIX. Fig. 9.) The whole frieze, and all
the paintings within, appear descriptive of
Isis defending herself against the attacks of
this monster. (See Plate XL. Fig. 1.) I
made a sketch of this small temple, as con-
nected with the great one, and another of
the large one in a contrary direction. (See
Plate XXVI. Fig. 1.) to shew its position
with regard to the valley. I also increased
considerably my collection of hieroglyphics,
especially by a drawing of the frieze within
the portico, and besides these I drew several
capitals. (See Plate ~~XXIX~~. Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,)

CHAPTER XVII.

Quit Etfu and arrive at Esneh—Return towards the Desert, and pass again through Thebes—Historical Bas-reliefs at Karnac, and various Ruins—Intense Heat—Pass by Guedime—Reach Kous—General Submission of the Inhabitants, and Arrival of the Caravans—Architectural Remains at Kous—Arrive at Keneh—Particulars concerning the Route to Tombuctoo—Hostile Assembly at Beneadi—Massacre there, and Plundering of the Caravan—Failure of Murad-Bey's Projects—Crocodiles—Ruins at Dendera—Ancient Zodiac.

GENERAL Beliard arrived during the second day, and we set forward the next morning. At a short distance from Etfu,

Etfu, I found by the water-side the remains of a quay, near the entrance of a large canal: no other ruin accompanies this fragment, but from the appearance of a double flight of steps down this mound to the river, it is obvious that it was not constructed solely for the purpose of resisting the current, but was probably a wharf for some town or village, now ruined and forgotten. We again passed by the ruins of Hieracopolis, of which I have already spoken, and spent the evening four leagues from Etfu. At one in the morning our march was recommenced, and on the 23d of March we arrived at Esneh, worn out with fatigue. I had ~~flattered~~ myself with the hope of enjoying ~~here~~ a few days of repose, and was much disappointed to find that the troops from Mecca, in conjunction with some Mamelukes, were on their march from Girgeh; that although they had been

met and beaten at Bardis, regardless of this check, they had nevertheless proceeded to Girgeh, to plunder the market: here one division had been intercepted and beaten again, but the remainder were still formidable, from their influence over the inhabitants: we were therefore obliged to return, and occupy the passes of the desert. An entire night was spent in passing the river; and when our march began, the sun was risen, and was already very oppressive: we halted during the hottest part of the day, and reached Salamieh in the evening. On the following day, after marching a few hours, I came for the fourth time in sight of the majestic ruins of Thebes, and made a drawing of them, from a situation where the buildings on each side of the river were visible from Karnac to Medinet-Abu, occupying an extent of two leagues. (See Plate XXIV.

XXIV. Fig. 1.) There is indeed another ruin to the north-east, at the village of Guedime, half a league in the rear, which makes the whole length of the monuments and other remains of this ancient city equal to about eight miles. We stopped at Karnac, and I lost no time in profiting of my good fortune. Not being able of myself to lay down the plan, or draw comprehensive views of this mighty mass of ruins, which at first sight resembles a heap of sculptured mountains, I employed the two hours of our stay here in delineating the historical bas-reliefs, and in acquiring an accurate idea of the style and composition of this primitive sculpture, and of the state of the art at a period so remote, as to make it probable that these are some of its most ancient productions.

The fragments in the highest preservation
are

are the following: (See Plate LXI.*) A hero, perhaps a Pharaoh, Memnon, Osymandyas, or Sesostris, is seen combating alone from a car in pursuit of people at a distance, with beards, and clothed in long tunics; he forces them into a marsh, and obliges the rest to take shelter in a fortress. In the fragment, No. 1. he overthrows their chief, already wounded with an arrow. In No. 2. he returns bringing back the captives. In No. 4. he presents them fettered to the three divinities, by whose protection he has obtained the victory; for it is to be observed, that in all the above actions his arms are always accompanied and guarded by one or two emblematical hawks. The divinity to whom he presents the fruit of his conquest is that of Abundance, under the figure of

Figured by mistake LXIII.

Priapus,

Priapus, holding a flail in his right hand, a god to whom the temple of Karnac, the largest in Thebes, and probably one of the greatest and oldest that was ever constructed, is dedicated. From the very sanctuary to the outer walls of the building this divinity is represented by his least equivocal characteristic. It was also my wish to draw the bas-relief, representing a ship navigated by sailors, but it is too much dilapidated, and destitute of any accompaniments from which its latent meaning might be educed. The day was advancing, and we had not yet taken any refreshment; heroes of romance might have done without, but to modern soldiers food is no superfluity. While we were thus employed, the fun gained so far upon us, that we resolved to pass the night at Karnac. I immediately returned to my interesting task; I surveyed the ruins, and

was

was convinced that a whole week's application would not be too much to construct a plan of the edifices comprehended in this single circumvallation.

I had not time to measure by rule the extent of ground occupied by these buildings, but I found repeatedly that twenty-five minutes were required to encompass them on full trot. The passage through the circumvallation or exterior wall was by six gates that yet remain, three of which were preceded by avenues of sphinxes: within the circuit was contained not only the great temple, but three others entirely distinct from it, having each its own gates, porticoes, courts, avenues, and boundary wall—What was their use? Were they temples or palaces? Were their sovereigns lodged in the porticoes of the temples, or were their palaces similar in construction to the sacred edifices; or, perhaps,

perhaps, from their superior lightness, unable to resist the injuries of time? It is at least obvious, that if they did really inhabit these buildings, which from their distribution may be regarded as dependencies of the great temple, their accommodations were by no means to be envied. Large courts with open galleries, and porticoes formed by narrow intercolumniations, could not be very pleasant to live in: the few chambers that there are, of small dimensions, destitute of air and light, and covered with pious allegories, were but little calculated to attract the eye or please the imagination. Another objection is, that some of these dark chambers contained little tabernacles, in which, no doubt, were inclosed either the figure of the divinity or the particular animal emblematical of it, or the sacred treasure; and to any of these none but the priests would be admitted. Probably,

bably, therefore, the vast circuit of these buildings was occupied by numerous colleges of priests, the depositories of the science, the power and the influence of the country.

What monotony ! what melancholy wisdom ! what austere gravity of manners ! I still admire with awe the organization of such a government ; its stupendous remains yet excite the mingled sensations of respect and dread. The divinity, in sacerdotal habits, holds in one hand a hook, and in the other a flail ; the former, no doubt, to restrain, and the latter, to punish : every thing is measured by the law, and enchained by it. The fine arts, subject to the same severe restrictions, bend under the weight of fetters, and their soaring genius is pinioned to the earth. The unveiled emblem of generation traced even in the sanctuary of the temples, announces, that to destroy pleasure it was converted

converted into a duty: not a single circus, not a single theatre, not a single edifice for public recreation; but temples, but mysteries, but initiations, but priests, but sacrifices; ceremonies for pleasures; for luxury, sepulchres. Surely, in the evil hour of France, some demon evoked the gloomy ferocious soul of an Egyptian priest to animate the monster, who imagined, by making us fullen, to render us happy.

After traversing the building for the purpose of gaining an accurate idea of its architectural details, I found myself at the south-western extremity of the circumvallation, where the other smaller temples are situated.

I entered one of them, and was struck with a new sensation of astonishment. Behind two buttresses is an open portico of twenty-eight columns, ungraceful in its proportions, but rendered imposing by its severity of style

so true is it in architecture, that where the lines are long, few, and uninterrupted, the effect is always grand and striking. At the end of this first portico, is a large open door, leading to a second colonnade of eight pillars in two rows, still more grave in their proportions, and whose character is rendered more terrible by their awful depth of shade; beyond this is a long narrow passage, succeeded by two others, each darker than the preceding, and at the extremity of all is a subterranean sanctuary, which appears to the imagination as the asylum of terror, the temple of the Eumenidæ. The whole of this monument is separated from the rest by a boundary wall. Having made a drawing of the exterior of this edifice, I was preparing to make one of the interior, which might in some measure partake of the character of its great original, when I found myself so much

overcome with fatigue, and the terribly sublime emotions that I had experienced, as to be quite incapable of the task. I copied, however, the bas-reliefs, and the hieroglyphics. I made myself master of the relative position of the various parts, and executed a general view of the temple, taken from the eastern gate, where the gigantic ruins of the more remote buildings appear by reflection in the distance. (See Plate XXI. Fig. 1.)

The heat was so intense, that my feet were scorched through my shoes, and I was unable to sit down for the purpose of drawing, till I had placed my servant between the sun and myself, in order to intercept the rays, and procure me a little shelter: the very stones were become so hot, that wishing to collect some carnelian agates, which are found in great abundance in the outskirts of the town, I was obliged to lay each hastily

in my handkerchief as if it was a hot-coal, Harassed and fatigued, I betook myself to a small Arabian tomb, which was to serve for our night's lodging, and which appeared to me a delicious boudoir, till I was told, that in our former march through this place a French soldier, who had loitered behind the column, was stabbed in this very spot: the marks of the assassination yet visible upon the walls filled me with horror; nevertheless, I lay down, I slept, and so weary was I, that I could even have reposed on the very carcass of this ill-fated victim.

We departed on the morrow before daylight; and I carried with me this time more drawings and fewer regrets; it was not, however, without a sigh, that I quitted Thebes, perhaps for ever; its distance from all our posts, the ferocity of its inhabitants, and the tribute being paid, all forbade me to
indulge

indulge the hope of revisiting it. I had not yet seen the tombs of the kings, but I could not enter upon the search without a guard of soldiers, and the troops were unhappily fatigued beyond measure by the repeated forced marches that they had undergone; I was, therefore, obliged to trust to future favourable circumstances, and in the sequel fortune was propitious to my wishes. At day-break I found myself sufficiently near Guedime to see the ruin there, consisting of four columns, still surmounted by three massy stones of the entablature, in front of which are visible the foundations of two buttresses, at present a shapeless mass of fragments. These are the only remnants of a monument, whose chief merit at present is to serve as a fixed point from which to compute the vast extent of the Theban monuments. At noon we reached Kous, where

we were informed that the troops sent against us from Mecca had been routed by all our detachments, and in their flight had been intercepted at Tata by our cavalry, who, to secure the tranquillity of the country, had put them entirely to the sword: the supply of their necessary wants had rendered them a scourge to the country, and they were hunted down by the natives like wild beasts.

- - The inhabitants of Kous, always well disposed, who had received us courteously, even when we were supposed to be marching to certain destruction, came out to meet us, and treated us as conquerors.

The sheriff of Mecca had also sent to General Defaix, protesting against the expedition of his countrymen, with a proposal of alliance and friendship; the towns of Gidda and For also requested peace, and

Coffeir

Casseir offered to surrender. We learnt that Solyman and another Bey had gone with their families into the oasis, and could now judge of the extremity to which the others were reduced by the submission of the inhabitants, the voluntary payment of the tribute, the coming in of the Arab chieftains, and a certain gaiety before unseen spread over the country, which gave me hopes that, for the future, we might promote at the same time the happiness of the natives and the interest of the colonists.

Desaix issued a proclamation, announcing that the corn lands whose crops while green had been eaten up either by the Mamelukes or French, should be excused from the tribute; an equitable regulation, which, from its novelty equally surprized and pleased the cultivators; and the good-will of the inhabitants was entirely conciliated, by allow-

ing them to dress according to their own fancy and their means, without any rank's forfeiting its peculiar privileges. The merchants of Coffeir, who had hitherto concealed themselves, now quitted their town, and came to purchase corn at Keneh; those of Gidda arrived in their vessels laden with coffee, and both paid without reluctance the duties, which were no longer arbitrary. In fine we began to see money arrive without the use of bayonets, and our magazines and parks to be stored with straw, barley, and cattle; while the village chiefs promised us, in the name of the cultivators, that the country now barren and dry should become the next year verdant with herbage, and covered with crops of which the tribute alone should surpass the whole of this year's harvest.

The caravans also sent their deputies, requesting

questing passports; the Mamelukes, abandoned by their masters, came in to us with their arms, desiring to be enrolled among our troops, and we enjoyed the satisfactory spectacle of a government universally hated, sinking without resource in its distress, and deprived even of the possibility of its future re-establishment.

At an equal distance from Elfi-Bey, who had descended the river, and from Osman, who had returned up it as far as Syene, we rested ourselves a few days at Kous, where I made a drawing of the top of a gate, the only remnant that is left of the ancient Apollino] polis parya, (Plate IV. Fig. 2.) This single fragment appears larger than all the rest of the town, and offers a striking picture of the eternity that characterizes the Egyptian architecture. The other parts of the edifice are doubtless buried under the mountain of rubbish

ruinous that is occupied by the modern town. I copied also the remains of an inscription, engraved on the listel of the same gate. (Plate IV. Fig. 1.) The inscription itself was posterior to the monument, and afforded a curious example of skilful flattery in a prefect of Upper Egypt, at the time of the Ptolemies, who, on account of some repairs twenty or thirty centuries after the first building of the temple, ventured to dedicate it to his masters, to inscribe the gate with their names, and thus transmit them to posterity. The glory of kings can indeed only resist the flood of time by being exalted on the monuments raised by the gods; deprived of this support, they are buried in the overwhelming stream, leaving behind them only empty names that history repeats in vain. What would become of Achilles without his immortal monument, the *Iliad*

of Homer; or of Sesostris, without the remains of these his coeval temples? The names of Pericles, of Augustus, of the Medicean Lorenzo, are illuminated by the torch of literature and the arts; while the tombs of Genferic, Attila, Tamerlane, and
 yers, are
 the common ruins of time.

I found in the fields near the lower part of the town, a fragment of a tabernacle, or monolithic temple, which, after having been broken, had served for the drinking trough to a cistern; one of its window frames still remaining entire, bore a hieroglyphical inscription, admirably executed, and in a perfect state of preservation: I copied it, for such a fragment as this is of itself a monument, an irrevocable attestation of the culture and intelligence of the nation to which it formerly belonged. (Plate LX. Fig. 2.)

We left Kous, and arrived at Kench, where we found a number of merchants of all nations. By intercourse with the natives of different countries, remote distances seem to be contracted; and when we begin to reckon the days required for the journey, and the necessary means of effecting it, the space to be passed over ceases to be immense; we no sooner find ourselves actually engaged, than many difficulties, formidable at first, insensibly diminish, and at length disappear. The Red Sea, Gidda, Mecca, seemed like neighbouring places to the town where we were; and India itself was but a short way beyond them. In the opposite direction the oases were actually no more than three days journey off us, and ceased to appear to our imagination as an undiscovered country. From oasis to oasis, by easy marches of one or two days, we arrive at Sennaar, one of the

the capitals of Nubia, which separates Egypt from Abyfinia and Darfur, the latter of which countries is in the road to, and trades with, Tombuctoo, whose inhabitants are still the chief object in Africa, of European curiosity, and whose very existence was a short time ago problematical. It is true, indeed, that though the journey to Darfur may be accomplished in forty days, a hundred more are required to reach Tombuctoo. A merchant whom I found at Keneh, and who had often been to Darfur, where the caravans arrive from Tombuctoo, gave me the following itinerary, which I subjoin in the note.* Here also we found many

Route from Suet to Darfur and Sennaar by Dongola.

From Suet by the desert, in a south-westerly direction, four days are required to reach Korg-Eluah, the most populous and best cultivated of the oases: here is a stream of fresh water, which, rising out of the ground,

Turkish, Meccan, and Monkish merchants, come to exchange coffee and Indian cottons for corn.

is, after a short rest there is a fortress, and a large village.

From Körġ-Eliah to Bulague, day's journey: here is a small village, and well tasted water, which, however, is apt to disagree with those who are not accustomed to it.

From Bulague to El-Bsacah, one day: brackish water.

From El-Bsacah to Beris, half a day's journey. Here there is a large village, and tolerably good water.

From Beris to El Mekh, two hours. Here it is necessary to lay in a stock of water, for the oases cease at El Mekh, and nothing but salt or brackish water is to be met with for several days. Travelling from this place in the same direction as at first, after six days, we reach Defir.

From Defir to Selima, three days: salt water, but not quite undrinkable.

From Selima to Dongola, where we again meet with the

Notwithstanding these favourable appearances, and the quiet submission of the superior classes, the mass of the nation, who had nothing to lose, considering our equity as indicative of our weakness, allowed themselves to be seduced by the beys, who, taking ad-

the Nile, four days. Here a fresh supply of water and provisions must be laid in.

From Dongola, bearing away more to the west for four days, we arrive at El Goyah.

From El Goyah to Zagaoneh, six days: brackish water.

From Zagaoneh to Darfur, ten days, without meeting with either village or water.

The other route from Dongola to Darfur requires seventeen days march in a southerly direction to Sennaar, and hence to Darfur twelve days travelling due west.

It is above all essential, in such a journey, to be sufficiently well mounted, to keep up with the caravan, as this stops for no one, and he who goes slower than the rest is necessarily left behind.

vantage

vantage of their religious prejudices, and the influence which the high tone of command has over those that have been long accustomed to obey, began afresh to organize an opposition, eight or ten leagues from our head-quarters.

Beneadi, a town two miles long, and containing twelve thousand inhabitants, always rebellious against every government, from its situation on the verge of the desert, had called in the Arabs: a caravan from Darfur was also just arrived here. Murad-Bey, profiting of this concurrence, had found means, by working on their religious fanaticism, on a sudden to excite the whole to arms. Immediately upon intelligence of this being received, General Dayoust was dispatched with the cavalry to Beneadi: the common tranquillity required the destruction of a volcano that was incessantly threatening

ening

ening us: the troops, animated with the hope of plunder, in an instant swept away the whole village: those of the inhabitants that escaped joined the remnant of the Mec-cans, marched against Miniet, and were put to the sword in a second encounter.

Among the booty of Beneadi was an immense number of women, partly inhabitants of the place, and partly flaves brought by the caravan: those to whose share they fell in the division of the spoil fold them in open market; from one they passed to another, rising in value with every change of masters, till at length they were purchased again from their last owners by their fathers, their husbands, or their former masters: meek and modest, they submitted with impassive resignation to their lot, and were reinstated in their domestic relations without any questions being asked. A conduct so little con-

sonant to the usual habits of Mahomedan jealousy, inducing us to express our surprize, we were answered very sensibly, “ What fault of theirs is it that we have not been able to defend them ?”

Murad-Bey, who had arrived by way of the desert, to cut off our communication with Cairo, saw the attack and destruction of his allies, without daring to come to their assistance : he contented himself with taking measures for holding us in check, without much risk to his own troops, waiting in the mean while for more favourable circumstances : the present was not the time for him either to propose or to accept terms of accommodation, for what community of political or commercial interests was there between us, on which to base the respective guarantee of mutual good faith ! Accustomed, besides, to unforeseen reverses of fortune, his
hopes

hopes were still kept alive. The absence of the commander in chief, the employment of part of our forces in the Syrian expedition, the constant formation of conspiracies, all forbade him to despond: nor was he wanting to his own fortune, in taking every means of organizing and keeping up the spirits of his party. He persuaded the emir Adgi at Cairo, who was under orders to join the commander in chief in Syria, to assemble a body of men sufficient to seize Belbeis, which lay in his road, by a coup-de-main; thus to cut off the retreat of the army, to raise the country upon our scattered forces, and oblige us to concentrate our troops by abandoning Upper Egypt. This promising scheme terminated, however, only in the ruin of the emir: some suspicious movements discovered his designs, and to avoid being arrested by the garrison of Belbeis, he was

obliged, with a few followers, to hurry to the desert. The detection of this conspiracy, the massacre of Beneadi, and the second defeat at Miniut of those who had escaped the massacre, again unhinged the projects of Murad-Bey, and obliged him to retire to the oases.

While at Keneh I had to regret the death of a crocodile, which some peasants having surprised asleep, had bound and brought alive to the officer who commanded during the absence of General Beliard: the animal being yet young, and fettered by an iron circle between the shoulders and belly, could not be very formidable; we might have observed and become acquainted with his habits, which are unknown even in his native country, so much is he an object of terror! It would have been curious to see his manner of eating, to ascertain what kind of food he lives on,
whether

whether mastication is necessary to him, and if so, how it is effected in an animal possessed only of cutting teeth; how his throat supplies the place of a tongue, and whether advantage might be taken of his voracity to render him tame. He might, perhaps, have been brought alive to France, and might there have been submitted to the examination of the naturalists and the curiosity of the Parisians, doing homage to the nation as a trophy of the conquered Nile. In my wanderings on the banks of this river I have seen a great number of all sizes, from three to twenty-six or twenty-eight feet in length: many officers worthy of credit assured me that they met with one no less than forty feet long. They are by no means so ferocious as is pretended: their favourite resorts are the low islands of the river, where they are seen basking in the sun (the most intense

heat of which appears highly grateful to them) by numbers at a time, asleep and motionless as so many logs of wood, surrounded by birds, who appear totally unmindful of them. What is the food of these large animals? Many stories are related of them, but we have not yet had an opportunity of verifying a single one. Daring even to imprudence, our soldiers set them at defiance; even I myself bathed daily in the Nile; for the tranquil nights that I thus obtained rendered me regardless of dangers which we had not as yet verified by a single fact. If the crocodiles had devoured a few of the carcases which the war left at their disposal, such a food, it might be imagined, would only excite their appetite, and engage them to pursue when alive so favourite a prey; and yet we were never once attacked by them, nor did we ever meet with a single crocodile at a distance

distance from the water. Hence it appears probable that they find in the Nile itself a sufficient quantity of easily procurable food, which they digest slowly, being, like the lizard and serpent, cold-blooded and of an inactive stomach. Besides, having in the Egyptian part of the Nile no enemies but each other and man, they would be truly formidable, if, covered as they are with an almost impenetrable defensive armour, they were alert and skilful in making use of those which nature has given them for attack. When I left Kench, General Beliard had a young one in his possession no more than six inches long, which yet already began to show its native ferocity. I was afterwards informed by the general, that it lived four months without eating, without appearing to suffer, without appearing to grow, or to become
" U 4 leaner,

leaner, and to the last was as untractable as ever.

Ammianus Marcellinus, who wrote in the time of Julian, has recorded, that; from the remotest antiquity, the Egyptians considered themselves as dupes, if they paid their debts without being compelled to it by actual force or fear: fortunately for me, the people of Dendera had not degenerated from their ancestors.

From the window of my apartment at Keneh, I saw the ruins of Tentyra, two leagues off, on the other side of the Nile; those ruins, the recollection of which inspired me with so much interest, mixed at the same time with regret, at not having had an opportunity to make a drawing of a zodiac, which clearly proved the deep knowledge of the ancient Egyptians in astronomy.

The.

The Denderites refusing to pay the tribute, a hundred men were sent thither, whom I accompanied. From Dendera to the ruins of Tentyra is only twenty minutes ride; this latter place, from its ancient monuments, is called by the Arabs, Berbeh. We arrived at the town in the evening, and the next morning, with a guard of thirty men, I went to the ruins, and this time took possession of them in the plenitude of repose and quiet. I was first of all delighted to find that my enthusiastic admiration of the great temple was not an illusion produced by the novelty of its appearance, since after having seen all the other Egyptian monuments, this still appeared the most perfect in its execution, and constructed at the happiest period of the arts and sciences: every thing in it is laboured, is interesting, is important. It would be necessary to draw the whole in its most minute detail,

to

to possess ourselves of all that is worth carrying away; nothing has been made without some end in view, without contributing in a greater or less degree to the perfection and harmony of the whole. As my time here was very limited, I began with what had been the principal object in my journey hither, the celestial planisphere, which occupies part of the ceiling of a little apartment, built over the nave of the great temple. The floor being low, and the room dark, I was able to work at it only a few hours in the day; but neither this, nor the multiplicity of the details, and the great care required in not confounding them by the necessity of viewing them in so inconvenient a posture, abated my ardour: the desire of bringing to the philosophers of my native country the copy of an Egyptian bas-relief of so much importance, made me patiently endure the tormenting

tormenting position required in its delineation. (See Plate LVIII.) I copied also the rest of the ceiling, which is divided into two equal parts, by a large figure that seems to be an Isis: her feet rest upon the earth, her arms are extended towards heaven, and she appears to occupy all the space between. In another part of the ceiling is a large figure, probably representing heaven, or the year, with its hands and feet on the same level, and enfolding with the curvature of the body fourteen globes placed on as many boats, distributed over seven bands or zones, separated from each other by numberless hieroglyphics, but too much covered with stalactites and smoke to allow of being copied. I took, however, a sketch of this compartment of the ceiling, in order to give a general idea of its form. (See Plate LIII. Fig. 1. and the general plan of this apartment, Plate LVIII.

in which the relative position of the several objects is laid down.)

Behind this first chamber is a second, which receives light only through the door; this also is covered with most interesting and admirably executed hieroglyphical pictures. Notwithstanding the darkness, and the difficulty of getting what little light there was to fall at the same time on the bas-relief and my paper, I made drawings of almost all that was contained on the ceiling or the wall. (See Plate LIII. Fig. 2, and Plate XL. Figs. 5, 6, 7, and 8.) It is difficult to imagine what could be the use of this little edifice, so carefully finished and ornamented with pictures so evidently scientific: those on the ceilings appear to relate to the motions of the heavenly bodies, and those on the walls have probably some reference to the earth, and the influences of the air and water. The
earth

earth is universally represented by the figure of Isis, who was the presiding divinity in all the temples of Tentyra, and whose emblem or figure is found in every part: her head is seen forming the capital of the columns belonging to the portico, and the first chamber of the great temple: it is also in the centre of the astragal, and sculptured in gigantic proportions, on the outside of the foundation wall: it is the distinguishing object in the ornaments of the frieze and the cornice, and is conspicuous in all the pictures, with her proper attributes. It is Isis to whom all the offerings are made, when they are not presented by herself to her husband Osiris: her figure is inscribed on the outer gates of the enclosure, and to her are dedicated the little temples that are there represented; in that on the right hand of the entrance, she is triumphing over two evil genii; in that

which

which is behind the great temple, she is variously described as holding Horus in her arms, defending him from every hostile attempt, entrusting him only to figures like cows, and suckling him at every age, from infancy to puberty.

I employed all the time in which, for want of light, I was unable to work at the planisphere, in measuring the capitals and columns, in making plans and elevations, and taking views of the gates. There are now neither doors nor even hinges to these gates, which formerly secluded from prophanes eyes those mysteries of which the priests were so jealous, and also, perhaps, concealed the treasures of the state. The chambers consecrated to eternal night, the mysteriouness of the worship, obscure as the temples themselves, the secret initiations, so difficult to be obtained, and for ever shut against strangers,

and

and the sudden overthrow, both of the government and religion, as soon as Cambyfes had violated the sanctuaries, overthrown the divinities, and carried off the treasures, all combine in announcing that, within these temples was contained the effence of all; and that hence emanated all the civil and religious authority of the state.

My enquiries, my observations, and my labours, were cut short by the eagerness of the sheik of the village to rid the district of our presence: after the first day he brought in his contribution, the general recalled the troops, and thus ended my expedition.

Just before setting off, I took a general view of the site of Tentyra, and the group of monuments that overlook the town, with the mountains rising in the distance. I also copied an inscription in beautiful and large Greek characters, placed like that at Kous

on the listels to the right and left of the top of one of the outer gates, to the south of the great temple. The following is the inscription, taken as correctly as the mutilated state of some of the letters would admit.

ΤΡΙΕΡΑΤΤΟΚΙΑΤΟΡΕΣΚΑΙΣΑΡΘΣΘΕΟΤΤΙΟΤΑΙΟ
 ΣΕΑΕΥ . . : : : ΡΑΣΡΟΤΕΡΙΗΟΠΛΙΟΤΟΚΤΑΙΟ
 ΤΗΓΕΜΟΝΟΣΚΑΙΜΑΡΚΟΥΚΛΩΔΙΟΥΠΟΣΤΟΜΟΥΕ
 ΠΙΣΤΡΑΤΗΓΟΥΤΡΥΦΩΝΟΣΣΤΡΑΤΗΓΟΥΝΤΟΣΟΙΑ
 ΠΟΤΘΣΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΕΩΣ : : : ΧΝΟΜΟΥΤΟΠΡΟ
 ΠΥΛΟΝΙΣΙΑΘΕΑΙΜΕΓΣΤΗΚΑΙΤΟΙΣΣΥΝΟΙΣΙΘΕΙ
 ΟΙΣΙΕΤΟΣΛΑΚΑΙΣΑΡΘΣΟΩΤΘΣΕΒΑΣΤΗΙ.

Below is the same inscription, with the words separated, and the letters restored by the literati whom I have consulted, together with the translation that they have given of it.

Υπερ αυτοκρατορος Καισαρος Θεου υιου Διου ελευθερι-
ας οτ επι Ποπλιου Οκταβιου ηγεμοιου και Μαρκε
 Κλωδιου Ποσειδωνος ετισρατηγα Τρυφωνος στρατηγεντος οι απο
 της μητροπολεως ιερωτην εκ νομου το προφυλον Ισιδι Θεας
 μεγαλειη και τοις συννοις Θεοις ετες λα Καισαρος Θωυτ
 σεβαςη.

“ On account of the Emperor Cæsar,
 “ God, the son of Jupiter the Deliverer,
 “ when Publius Octavius being governor,
 “ Marcus Claudius Poitumus commander in
 “ chief, and Tryphon general, the deputies
 “ of the metropolis consecrated, in virtue
 “ of the law, the propylæum to Isis, the
 “ greatest of the goddesses, and to the affo-
 “ ciated gods of the temple, in the thirty-
 “ first year of Cæsar.”

There is another inscription on the listel of
 the cornice of the great temple; but I was
 unable to distinguish the characters suffi-

ciently well to copy them. These few Greek characters, in the midst of innumerable Egyptian inscriptions, form an extraordinary and striking contrast.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Present State of Coptos—Kamsin Wind, or Hurricane of Egypt—Swarm of Locusts—Defeat of Selim-Bey—March across the Desert to Cossair—Biralbarr—Fountains of Kittah and El-More—Description of Cossair—Arab Cooking—Return to Mokatam—Feast at Abumaneh—Egyptian Servants.

SOME days after my return from Ten-
tyra, the cavalry was sent to protect a
 military chest, which was to be conveyed
 from Efneh to Kench. I took advantage
 of this escort to go and visit Kest, or Cop-
thos, which I had passed at a distance three
 times before, without having had oppor-
 tunity to stop and visit this town, or even to
 ride through it. I wished to know whe-

ther Copthos, which was so celebrated by the calamities which it underwent in the time of the persecutions by Dioclesian, possessed any vestiges of higher antiquity. I was struck in entering the town with the good preservation of its different monuments; the ancient part still remains in the state in which it was left by the conflagration which terminated the long siege that destroyed it in the third century; the old limits of the city have been abandoned, and to this has succeeded an Arab town, with a boundary wall of unbaked bricks, beyond which, verging to the west, was built the village of Kest, which still exists. Was Copthos the ancient name of this town? And did the ancient Copts take their name from that of Copthos, where zeal collected their numbers, and made them sustain so obstinate and disastrous a siege in the time of Dioclesian?

fian? One may evidently distinguish the different ruins of two temples of high antiquity, and those of a catholic church, in which taste and art in the construction were certainly less remarkable than the magnificence and richness of the materials employed: the fragments of porphyry and granite columns and pilasters, scattered over a vast space of ground, remain to attest the opulence and luxury of the first believers; but the sculpture on the doric friezes, some fragments of which are still visible, shew that at this period the efforts at embellishment, which art could command, only impoverished the sumptuous magnificence of the materials. All these monuments lie without form and order on the ground, excepting a few portions still left standing, and none of them would furnish me with a single subject for a drawing.

I had often heard speak of the kamfin, which may be termed the hurricane of Egypt and the desert; it is equally terrible by the frightful spectacle which it exhibits when present, and by the consequences which follow its ravages. We had already passed with security one half of the season in which it appears, when in the evening of the 18th of May, I felt myself entirely overcome by a suffocating heat; it seemed as if the fluctuation of the air was suddenly suspended. I went out to bathe, in order to overcome so painful a sensation, when I was struck on my arrival at the bank of the Nile, with a new appearance of nature around me; this was a light and colours which I had not yet seen. The sun, without being concealed, had lost its rays; it had even less lustre to the eye than the moon, and gave a pale light without shade;.

the water no longer reflected its rays, but appeared in agitation; every thing had changed its usual aspect; it was now the flat shore that seemed luminous, and the air dull and opaque; the yellow horizon shewed the trees on its surface of a dirty blue; flocks of birds were flying off before the cloud; the frightened animals ran loose in the country, followed by the shouting inhabitants, who vainly attempted to collect them together again; the wind, which had raised this immense mass of vapour, and was urging it forward, had not yet reached us; we thought that by plunging our bodies in the water, which was then calm, we could prevent the baneful effects of this mass of dust, which was advancing from the south-west; but we had hardly entered the river when it began to swell all at once, as if it would overflow its channel, the waves passed over

our heads, and we felt the bottom heave up under our feet; our clothes were conveyed away along with the shore itself, which seemed to be carried off by the whirlwind which had now reached us; we were compelled to leave the water, and our wet and naked bodies being beat upon by a storm of sand, were soon encrusted with a black mud, which prevented us from dressing ourselves; enlightened only by a red and gloomy sun, with our eyes smarting, our noses stuffed up, and our throats clogged with dust, so that we could hardly breathe, we lost each other and our way home, and arrived at our lodgings at last one by one, groping our way, and guided only by the walls, which marked our track. We could now easily conceive the dreadful situation of those who are surprised with such a phenomenon of nature, when crossing the exposed
and

and naked deserts; and we were so accustomed to the serene sky of Egypt, that we could hardly bear with any patience such a sudden transition.

The next day, the same mass of dust, attended with similar appearances, travelled along the desert of Lybia: it followed the chain of the mountains, and when we flattered ourselves that we were entirely rid of this pestilence, the west wind brought it back, and once more overwhelmed us with this scorching torrent; the flashes of lightning appeared to pierce with difficulty through this dense vapour; all the elements seemed to be still in disorder; the rain was mixed with whirlwinds of fire, wind, and dust, and in this time of confusion the trees and all the other productions of nature seemed to be again plunged in the horrors of chaos.

- If the desert of Lybia had sent us these clouds

clouds of dust, those on the east, on the contrary, had been inundated with water, for the merchants who came from the borders of the Red Sea told us, that in the vallies they had the water up to the middle of their legs.

Two days after this disaster, we were told that the plain was covered with birds, which were passing on from east to west, like the close files of an army; and, indeed, we saw at a distance the fields appear to move, like a broad torrent flowing through the country. Thinking that they might be some foreign birds we hastened out to meet them; but instead of birds we saw a cloud of locusts, who just skimmed the soil, stopping at each blade of grass to devour it, then flying off to new food. If it had been the season in which the corn was young and tender, this would have been a serious plague; for these
children

children of the desert are as lean, as active, and as vigorous as the Bedouin Arabs; it would be interesting to know how they live and produce such multitudes in so arid a desert; perhaps it was the rain that had fallen in the valleys which had suddenly hatched them, and had produced this emigration, just as certain winds bring swarms of gnats. The wind changing again in a contrary direction to their march, they were once more driven back into the desert. These 'ocusts' are of a rose-colour, speckled with black, very strong, shy, and difficult to catch.

We learned that a detachment of two hundred men from our garrison at Esneh, commanded by captain Renaud, had set out from Etfu, and had marched towards Syene, in order to dislodge from this town Osman and Assan-Bey, who had returned thither.

. Emboldened by the small number of
French,

French, who were marching without cannon, they attacked our men with their usual impetuosity. The event was that Selim-Bey fell by our bayonets, three sheiks, one cañadar, and forty two Mamelukes, were killed on the field of battle, or were carried off to Syene, where they died the same day; forty others were wounded, and the rest of the fugitives ascended the country above the cataracts as far as Bribes. This battle completed the destruction of the Mameluke party; the Arab sheiks of the tribe of Ababdes were convinced of the insufficiency of their means of resistance, separated from the confederacy, and came to Kench to make peace and alliance with us.

Defaix, in order to drive Murad from his retreat, was preparing at Siut an expedition for the oasis; the command of it was to be given to his aid-de-camp Savari, whilst general

ral Beliard was getting ready the detachment which we were to send to Coffeir. I should have been glad to have accompanied both, but I was obliged to make my choice: whilst I was hesitating, Murad quitted Helluah, and the English appeared at Coffeir. All our attention was now directed to their quarter; General Douzelot arrived at Keneh, with orders to mark out the plan for a fort to contain six hundred men, and to go forward to Coffeir to establish himself there. The necessary provisions were made for both projects, and we were soon ready to march for the desert.

We collected a great number of camels, I say *we*, because by degrees one identifies one's-self with those that one lives with, and I was a party concerned in every event that happened to the division of Desaix, and more particularly to the twenty-first demi-brigade.

I var-

I partook of its dangers, its successes, its misfortunes, and I persuaded myself that I came in for some share of its glory. Our caravan was composed of three hundred and sixty-six of our men; we had each of us a camel to ourselves, which also carried the baggage and water necessary for each individual; and besides, two hundred camels were loaded with articles of the first necessity for us on our arrival at Cossair. The chiefs of the Arabs, who had just made alliance with us, joined our caravan, making advantage of this opportunity to ingratiate themselves with us by serving as guides, escort, and rear-guard; the whole party might amount in all to a thousand or eleven hundred men, and as many camels. It was entertaining for us to see each other mount our beasts; the camel, who is in general so deliberate in all his actions, mounts on his hind legs first very briskly as
soon

soon as the rider leans on his saddle to spring up, and throws him first forward and then backward, and it is not till the fourth motion when the beast is entirely on his legs that the rider can find his balance. None of us had been able to resist the first shake, and we each had to laugh at our neighbours till we were all well fixed on our seats.

We left Kenh the 26th of May, at ten in the morning, and arrived at four in the afternoon at Birambarr or Biralbarr (*the Well of Wells*) a village on the edge of the desert, about as high up as Cophos, and opposite to the defile which leads to Kittah, a fountain, of which I have spoken above, and which is the radiating centre of all the different roads that lead to Coffeir. We halted at Birambar, and after the camels had eat and drank as much as they chose, they were compelled to
swallow

swallow a second allowance of beans and barley, which was forced into their mouths.

The name of Biralbarr, or *Well of Wells*, arises doubtless from the two fountains, which are the only resources which this village offers. The water is sulphureous, but sweet and refreshing, owing to the nitre which it contains. I had been apprehensive of the swinging pace of the camel, and the prancing of the dromedary had made me fear being thrown over his head, but I was soon agreeably undeceived. When once fixed in the saddle, one has only to give way to the motion of the beast, and one soon finds that it is impossible to be more pleasantly mounted for a long journey, especially as no attention is requisite to guide the animal, except in turning him out of his strait forward direction, which very seldom happens in the de-

fert and amidst a caravan. The camel very rarely trips, and never stumbles except where the ground is wet: the dromedary is among the camel tribe what the greyhound is among dogs; they are only used for the saddle: a ring is passed through their nostril, to which a thong is tied, and this serves as a bridle to guide and stop him, or make him kneel when the rider wishes to dismount. The pace of the dromedary is light, the opening of the angle of his long legs, and the flexible spring of his lean foot renders his trot easier than that of any horse, and at the same time full as swift.

In quitting Biralbarr we turned to the east, and entered a long wide valley, forming 'an extensive plain, at the extremities of which appear some points of rocks, which shew that one is travelling along a chain of hills. I regretted I had not Dolomieu with me in

this journey, but Citizen Rozière supplied his place. We marched thus till ten at night in good order, so that on stopping at any time we could immediately form in military array. We then each spread our carpet beside our camel, supped on it, and slept. At one in the morning the moon rose the drum was beat, and in five minutes time we were all again on our march without any confusion or trouble. In the desert one feels one's respect redoubled for the camel, that venerable animal; however hard is his condition, he knows it, and conforms to it without impatience; he is a truly bountiful gift of Providence, and nature has set him down in a country in which his place could not be supplied to the service of man by any animal whatever; the sand is truly his element; for as soon as he quits it, and touches the mud, he can hardly keep upon his feet, and his

constant trips alarm the rider for the safety of himself and his baggage.

At day-break we arrived at Kittah, a very singular fountain, since it is situated on a higher level than all the surrounding ground; this fountain consists of three wells six feet in depth, and the strata of which are, first, a bed of sand, and beneath, a free-stone rock, through which the water filtrates, and slowly fills the holes that are dug. There is here a small mosque, or caravanfary, which serves for shelter to travellers when they are not very numerous.

One may here be convinced of the importance of those wells which are so often mentioned in the Cld Testament, and the history of the Arabs; and one sees how difficult it would be to erect the smallest edifice in such insulated and unprotected spots, that are so barren of necessary supplies; and

yet it would be absolutely necessary, in taking permanent possession of Egypt, to erect a fortress, and to keep a garrison in Kittah, to assure a free communication between Coffeir and the Nile, and to repress the Arabs of these parts, to whom this fountain is a post which renders them masters of an extensive country, on account of the permanent and inexhaustible source of water, which, if not secured, would always afford a ready supply to an enemy as soon as he was driven into the desert. We continued to march the rest of the day through the same kind of country, but it insensibly rose, and the ranges of mountains on either side approached nearer to each other. We then encamped during the evening, and resumed our march as on the day before.

At day-break we found the appearance of the country changed; the mountains
7 that

that we had passed the day before were rocks of free-stone, these were of pudding-stone, being a mixture of granite, porphyry, serpentine, and other primitive species, aggregated in green schistus. The valley continued to grow narrower, and the rocks on every side more lofty. At noon we had reached the first half of our journey, in the midst of fine rocks of breccia, which would be very easy to work, if it were not for the great distance from any supplies of provision: the portions of granite, of which this breccia is composed, shew that the primitive mountains are not far distant. Having passed these fine rocks, we began to descend again, till we reached a fountain called El-More, which is only a small hole under a rock. The water was excellent, but not sufficient for our numerous caravan; we passed on to a second watering-place, composed of several wells,

under a rock of very green schistus, mixed with white quartz, which gives it the appearance of the antique green marble. This was the only spot for about forty paces in which the road was narrow and difficult, and gave us some trouble to get our artillery over; all the rest was like a well fanded walk in a garden: the base of the rock is swept by torrents from the sides of the hills when it rains; and these floods, which only last a few hours, level the valley before them, without, however, making a ravine.

The variety of form and colour in these rocks began to break the sad and monotonous uniformity of the desert, and gave it almost a rural appearance; the country became sonorous; the noise of our party began to echo in the valleys, and appeared like the wakening of nature, for our troops had crossed the sandy plains in silence; hardly
had

had they begun to converse when in the valleys, but when arrived among the rocks, they made them resound with mirth and gaiety, and the gloom of the desert disappeared. This second fountain, though abundant, was too limited to supply the wants of our whole troop; only a part of them could fill their water-vessels, and we pushed on to that of El-Adoute, where the water, though not quite so sweet, is still very good. We dug a well, which directly gave it of excellent quality; and as it was the only drinkable water that we were to meet with in the remainder of our journey, we and our camels drank for the present and future, replaced with it that which was in our water-vessels, and took in as large a supply as possible, to last us to Coffeir, as it would be scanty and bad in the whole road thither. With a fortified tower, a cistern, and a caravansary

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established

established here, the passage from Cossair to the Nile would be as easily practicable as any other road.

In proportion as we descended, the mountains diminished in height; they no longer exhibited the same beds of magnificent breccia, but were again become siliceous, crossed with quartz. We stopped to sleep some hours, after having marched eighteen. At day-break we found the valley much enlarged, and soon it was crossed suddenly by a reddish calcareous mountain, edged with some rocks of free-stone; we coasted along the foot of this mountain, which, in rounding off, was terminated by a schistose rock, and beyond it the strata were entirely calcareous. Here is the fountain of Ambagi, but the water is only drinkable for camels; though it is in considerable quantity, it possesses the quality of a mineral spring, and
would

would perhaps be as salutary in the cure of diseases as Spa, or Barege; but here, where, owing to the sterility of the soil, and the sobriety of the inhabitants, there are but few diseases and no physicians, this spring creeps inglorious under a black and mephitic mud: and as it purges those who can endure the detestable taste which it leaves in the mouth, and encreases instead of satisfying thirst, it passes for the most malignant fountain in the country. However, it has been the means of the growth of seven or eight palm-trees, which form the only grove that is to be seen for fifty leagues around.

I perceived by the lightness of the air, that we were approaching the sea; and soon, in following the course of a large ravine, we saw the waves breaking on the reefs which line the shore. A mist on the horizon pointed out to us the Asiatic coast, which, however,

however, was too far to be at all discerned. The Ababdes Arabs, who had preceded us, had gone on before to give notice of our arrival to the inhabitants of Coffeir, and we saw them return with the sheiks of the town and their followers, driving before them a flock of sheep, the first offering of peace and homage. The costume of the Coffeirans is the same as that of Mecca; the Ababdes were many of them naked, except a girdle round their loins, with a lance in their hands, and a dagger attached to the left arm; they sat with their legs crossed on the lofty saddle of their meagre dromedaries, forming a singular contrast with the Meccans, who had a graver air, wore a head-dress like the ancient Roman augurs, were wrapped up in long garments with broad stripes, and were mounted on large camels. As soon as the different parties met, every one dismounted; ,
our

our troops put themselves in order of battle, and after an amicable conference of a few minutes, we went altogether to take possession of the castle, on which the white standard of peace was waving. I had formed such an idea of a pitiful town and ruined castle in Cossair, that when I came to them, I thought the former almost splendid, and the castle, a fort. This latter is an Arab edifice, built in the times of the caliphs, in the style of the fortifications of Alexandria, forming a square with four curtains, flanked with as many bastions, without ditches: but by adding a counterscarp to the present fortifications, the castle may resist the floating batteries and the troops which may be landed from the Red Sea. The port and road of Cossair is formed by reefs, which defend it from the north-north-west winds, and a head-land that protects it from the south-

south-south-east. It is open on the east and south-east. This head-land, or cape, is entirely of late formation, and is composed of nothing but madrepores, the greater number of which are of an enormous size. Nothing can describe in adequate terms the severe sadness of the country, the rigid aspect of the soil, and the insupportably dazzling reflection of the sun from the white shelly shore; and to see human beings in bustle and agitation in this barren spot, gives one a striking picture of the privations which avarice will endure in order to obtain a superfluity. The Arab houses are composed of a few pieces of wood that support some miserable mats, under which the inhabitants live on shell-fish, and form all their household utensils of the shells; and even work them into boxes, which are not without elegance. It would have been interesting to have reconnoitred

connoitered the road of Berenice, which was made at a great expence by the Ptolomies, forty leagues to the south, and afterwards abandoned for that of Coffeir, which, however, will only hold a small number of merchant ships of inferior size, as the depth of water is only two fathoms, and two and a half where it is the deepest. To load the vessels, they are obliged to carry the goods in the arms of men a hundred and fifty paces from the shore, to put them on board boats, which afterwards have to take them to the vessels which are to be freighted. With all these inconveniencies, it might at first appear surprising, to find still some commercial activity in the huts and rubbish of Coffeir; but when one considers, that it is, after all, the best known port in the Red Sea, that it furnishes corn to Mecca, and receives the
coffee

coffee of Yemen, that it is the point of contact between Asia and Africa, and might become the *entrepôt* of the merchandize of these parts of the world, one is still more astonished that any government can be so wastefully blind to its own resources, as to have thought of nothing but harassing, and vexing by impositions, a commerce, which would return such large interest for all that might be advanced to it. Neither custom-house, nor magazines, nor even a single cistern are to be found at Coffeir. When we arrived at this port, there was no other water in the town than what was brought from Asia, and this cost us a fous a goblet; but the activity of our soldiers made them find springs in twenty-four hours; and we got for nothing water better than that which was sold so dear, though it could not be kept or heated.

heated without acquiring an almost insupportable bitterness. But as there is no doubt that fresh water is to be found in the vicinity of Cossair, we left it to the garrison which remained behind in the place, and to the indefatigable Douzelot, who was to command it, to find in the beds of clay some spring which might not be impregnated with any arid and noxious matter.

The coast all about Cossair is frightfully poor and barren, but the sea is rich in fish, shells, and corals: the latter are so numerous, that it may have been here that the whole sea acquired the name of Red, whilst the sand on the shore is so white. The reefs are only coral and madrepores, as well as all the rocks which lie in these seas, to within half a league of the actual shore. I should have had much satisfaction in making a collection

lection of the shells on this coast, which appeared to be as numerous as varied; but I had some other drawings to make, and these, with the necessary preparations for returning, allowed me no spare time, except to make an excursion along the shore with our new allies the Ababdes Arabs. I mounted one of their dromedaries, seated myself in the saddle of the fashion of the country, and was delighted with the light easy pace of the one, and the commodiousness of the other. We entirely gained their friendship by exercising with them in mock charges, and shewing so much confidence in them, as to accompany them all day at a distance from Cossair, and riding with them at the rate of a league in less than a quarter of an hour.

• Two days after our arrival, that we might not waste the provisions of those that we left

left behind, we set out on our return; we were still preceded by our Arab friends, to whom the desert seemed by right to belong. They neglected none of the products of their empire; for we perceived two gazelles flying into the desert, upon which four of our allies set out in pursuit of them, with indifferent matchlock guns; some minutes after we heard only two shots fired, and we saw them return with both the gazelles, who were as fat as if they had been fed in the richest pasture. I was invited to partake of them; and being curious to know how their cookery was carried on, I went to their quarter: the leader, who was as proud as a sovereign, had no other decoration than the belt which we had given him; his palace was wherever he spread his carpet; his kitchen utensils consisted of two plates of copper, and a pot of

the same metal; butter, flour, and two sticks of wood, completed his table equipage: in a few minutes he had struck a light, collected old camels' dung for fuel, made dough of his flour, and cooked some fritters, which were very good when hot; and this, with the soup of the flesh, the bouillie, and broiled meat, made up a very tolerable repast for one who had any appetite, which, however, was not my case, for I had not the least in the desert, and I lived almost entirely on lemonade, which I generally made when riding on my camel, by putting slices of lemon in my mouth, along with sugar, and washing it down with water. Our Arabs were acquainted with every corner of pasturage; they knew to what forwardness of growth such and such plants should have attained at a league's distance from the regular track.

track, and sent their camels to feed upon them: these poor animals had nothing else in the whole day but a single feed of beans, which they ruminate for the remainder of the day, either on their journey, or lying down on the scorching sand, without testifying the least impatience. The passion of desire alone gives them some violence in their actions, particularly the females, who appear more irritable; and, what is extraordinary, fatigue seems to inflame their temperament, instead of exhausting them.

Our return was still more rapid than our journey out: being freed from the incumbrance of artillery, and every kind of lading, we marched more briskly, still, however, abridging the time of our halts and our sleep. We returned in two days and a half; but, for the last half day we were quite overcome

with fatigue and drought, and I could only quench my thirst by eating largely of melons, and plunging in the Nile. After travelling for eight days in the desert, the senses are awakened by the slightest impressions; and I still remember the delight which I felt on again spending the night reclined on the banks of the Nile, hearing the wind rustling in the leaves of trees, and feeling the refreshing coolness that it acquires in brushing through the long leaves of the palm, which it gently agitates: every thing was alive, and gave animating sensations; life was in the air, and nature seemed to respire. However, I became fully convinced by this journey, made in the hottest time of the year, and the hazard of which had been much exaggerated to us, that the undertaking it is what requires the effort of courage, and the danger

danger flies from those who brave it. I will here add a note of the hours of march in our route, which are not liable to vary, as the pace of every loaded camel is the same: no other alteration can occur in this reckoning than what arises from accidents, and from the greater or less time spent in halts and night encampments. However, every other season of the year is preferable to that which we were obliged to take for this expedition: in winter the traveller may be refreshed in the mountains by a rain of several hours, which furnishes abundance of water, and renders the journey only a promenade on a large plain of sand; but, during the time of the kamsin, one may be assailed by these hurricanes, which, however, we had the good fortune to escape.

*' Hours of March of our loaded Camels from
Kenah to Coffeir.*

	Hours. Min.		
From Kenah to Byr-al-Baar	—	3	50
To the halt for the night in the desert	1		45
To Kittah	—	—	3 30
To the night-halt	—	—	1 30
To the first fountain	—	—	9 35
To the second, called El ad-Houte	0		45
To the night halt	—	—	4 30
To the fountain of Ambagi	—	8	15
To Coffeir	—	—	1 15

Total 41 55

There only wants at Mokatam granite and porphyry rocks to give it all the characters of a primitive chain, and these might probably be found there, since, in the breccia of which

which the mountains are composed, rounded, fragments of these substances are observed. On the declivity on each side, the same circumstances may be noticed; that is to say, sands arising from the decomposition of the calcareous stone, calcareous rocks, free-stone, schistus, and breccia; the decay of the rocks, which appear often reduced to their primitive nuclei, give a picture resembling the worn mountains of China. Citizen Rosiere could find no traces of emeralds, though the valley is celebrated for possessing mines of this precious stone.

In the solitary and banished state in which we found ourselves, we were constantly expecting news, and were eager to learn the particulars of the operations and successes of our chiefs but this intelligence was often clouded with grief in hearing of the loss of

some one or other of our brave companions. These fatigues of the mind, joined to those of the body, recalled, in a melancholy way, our thoughts towards our native country, and made us feel our forlorn situation, and the necessity which we felt of being near human beings to whom we were bound by the ties of affection. We had at this time to regret the loss of General Caffarelli, who united to very distinguished talents the zeal of a truly philanthropic patriotism ; he constantly softened the rage for daring enterprize by the love of humanity, and was ever watchful over the welfare and safety of the men committed to his care ; in him the well-informed and sensible lost a father and a friend ; and in my own person, I often, in making my drawings, pleased myself with imagining the gratification which he would take in inspecting them,

them, and the regard for me which my zeal would excite in him. What recompence could be more flattering than the approbation of such a friend !

On our return we were eager to enjoy the favours of the Nile, and we were going to plunge our parched bodies in its salutary wave, when we found its usual appearance was quite changed: during the latter days of the kamfin, the current of the Nile becomes fluggish, the waters lose their usual salubrity and transparency, and become green, throwing up flakes of foul mud, which exhale a mephitic odour: in short, it is then no longer the bountiful river, the creator and preserver of Egypt; but it grows heavy in its motion, and would alarm the inhabitants of the banks, if its periodic restoration to its usual state was not as constant a phenomenon

non for them as it is surprising to the curious traveller. It keeps falling till the 17th of June, remains in stagnation for two days, and on the 19th it begins to rise.

It is at this period that the residence in Upper Egypt is almost insupportable; the winds are variable, and are constantly changing from the east to the south, or the south-west: this latter is terrible, for it troubles the atmosphere, obscures the sun with a white, dry, and burning vapour, parches with thirst, dries up every thing, inflames the blood, irritates the nerves, and makes life itself painful: it also oppresses the lungs so severely, that one involuntarily seeks for cooler air to breathe in, feeling as if the mouth was an oven of fire; if one inhales the air by the nostrils, it affects the head, and in again exhaling it, it feels like a gush of blood rushing
over

over the air-passages ; every thing that one touches is burning, and iron even in the night acquires the same heat to the touch as it would in France in the dog-days, exposed to the noon-day beams of the sun.

During these latter days we made an expedition to Sahmatch and Abumanah, frontier places of the government of the Thebaid, to settle with the inhabitants for the necessary labours of dykes and canals. Our general was received ~~like~~ like the governor of a province; the kaimakan, or general of the armed inhabitants, who was a rich man, had prepared for us on one of his estates a large court well watered, which in some degree quelled the burning heat of the season. In the evening he gave a supper to ourselves, the sheiks of the province, the detachment which accompanied us, and for the numerous servants who had made themselves part

of our suite ; for in the east they are a kind of vermin, which multiply at every step, and feed upon you, without your being able to defend yourself from their importunities. Scarcely have you engaged a single domestic than you are served by another, who never shews so much zeal as when he has no wages, and only takes pains when he is the servant's deputy ; but as soon as you give him a livery he must have his horse, and this introduces a third officious fellow, and so on. These bloodsuckers, who insensibly encreased in the army, were more burdensome to the country, and more barbarously destructive to the property of the inhabitants than the army itself ; they robbed with brutal audacity, proportioned to the rank or power of their masters, to whom they became insolent as soon as they could pass into the service of one more powerful, with whom they supposed they might

might continue their course with more impunity. They pursue their plundering schemes at the expence of the cultivator, the manufacturer, and all the useful and respectable classes of society: it is true that every battle freed us from a great number of them, but they returned for pillage, and only changed their masters. I have seen some, who in the beginning of the campaign had been grooms, on their return giving their orders to three servants, and by means of promotions which they impudently made among each other, perform no other office than that of holding the stirrup for their master when he mounted, and even then having one of their understrappers at hand to hold their pipe, or rather to shew to the by-standers the dignity to which they had arrived. It must be acknowledged, however, that by degrees we rendered ourselves accomplices of this

corruption, for we caught the spirit of orientals in breathing the same air with them, and we became so accustomed to a suite, that we soon could not do without a large train of attendants.

3.
END OF VOL. II

